FBIS
DAILY REPORT

MIDDLE EAST AND SOUTH ASIA REVIEW

3 SEPTEMBER 1980

Syria-Libya Union

In statements carried by Damascus radio, Syria has reacted quickly and positively to Libyan leader Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi's 1 September call for a Libyan-Syrian "merger of unity." In a cable to Al-Qadhdhafi, President Hafiz al-Asad said that the question of Arab unity is not a "transient political issue" in Syria and that "any call for unity and any serious action" to this effect meets with the "immediate response" of the Syrian people. Al-Asad called on the Syrian and Libyan peoples to "work together" to achieve this goal. Prime Minister 'Abd-ar-Ra'uf al-Kasm, in Libya for the revolution anniversary celebrations, echoed Al-Asad's message, expressing the "hope" that unity between the two countries will be achieved. In Damascus the Ba'th Party national and regional commands held a joint meeting on 2 September to "study" Al-Qadhdhafi's proposal and issued a statement "welcoming" the idea and expressing "complete agreement" with it. The statement said Syria will "immediately and seriously struggle" with the Libyan leadership and people to establish a "nucleus unity state."

Leaders of the two countries--both of which in the past either participated in or proposed union with other Arab states--emphasized that the merger is intended as an initial step toward the greater goal of pan-Arab unity. In his cable to Al-Qadhdhafi, Al-Asad stressed that Arab unity is Syria's "supreme national goal," and Majles 'Abd as-Salam Jallud, member of the General Secretariat of Libya's General People's Congress, said in a 2 September speech broadcast by Tripoli radio that Al-Qadhdhafi's call for unity with Syria is designed to create a "unionist revolutionary progressive tide" encompassing all Arab states and land from the gulf to the Atlantic. Jallud stated that this is the beginning of an "offensive phase" by pan-Arab unionist forces in which Libyan unionist elements will play a "full role" and stressed that the time has now come to move from the stage of just proclaiming unity to actually implementing it through "earnest action and serious decisions."

Syria and Libya, however, have yet to publicly define the political and economic dimensions of the proposed merger or to set a timetable for it. Nor is it yet apparent to what extent and at what level talks on this issue have already taken place.

Linowitz Visit to Israel

According to Jerusalem radio, the ministerial team on autonomy has told presidential envoy Sol Linowitz that Israel is not ready to make "any concession" on the autonomy issue or "pay a price" for Egypt's return to the talks. Foreign Minister Yitzhaq Shamir said that as Egypt was the country that suspended the talks, the United States should "compel" it to resume them. He also said, however, that Israel is ready to "make an effort" to resume the talks, possibly indicating a "gesture" on the part of Israel as opposed to any form of concession. However, Prime Minister Menahim Begin, in an interview carried by Jerusalem radio after his 2 September meeting with Ambassador Linowitz, dismissed any thought of such a gesture. Begin did say that he "did not object" to a tripartite summit conference either before or after the U.S. elections, but only if it did not preclude the resumption of the autonomy talks and did not take immediate priority over them. He also revealed that he and Ambassador Linowitz had agreed on a "certain document" which the latter will present to President as-Sadat in Cairo. Begin gave no indication as to the content of the document.

Iran

According to Tehran radio, meetings attended by President Abolhasan Bani-Sadr, Prime Minister Mohammad 'Ali Raja'i and other Iranian officials were held on 1 and 2 September to try to resolve "problems connected with the Cabinet" as well as other issues. Despite Raja'i's 31 August public announcement of his prospective Cabinet members, there are still doubts that differences between him and Bani-Sadr over Cabinet selection have been resolved to the point where Raja'i can safely introduce his Cabinet formally to the Majles without precipitating a parliamentary crisis. Nevertheless, Tehran radio's Arabic service cited Hojjat ol-Eslam Anvari, who attended the meetings, as saying that agreement has been reached along "broad lines" and Raja'i as claiming that "all problems have been solved." Bani-Sadr, however, has yet to comment publicly on the results of these meetings.

YAR-PDRY Summit

A joint press statement was issued in San'a' after the 2-day visit to the YAR by PDRY leader 'Ali Nasri Muhammad for talks with YAR President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih. The statement, carried by San'a' radio, while noting that the two leaders discussed "further steps to reunite the homeland," gave no firm indication that new political initiatives to this effect are imminent. It indicated that the rapprochement between the two Yemens is still in its initial stage, suggesting only that the current measures being taken--including economic coordination and increased trade and tourism--are "significant steps" in guaranteeing the "presence of new circumstances and a new atmosphere" which in turn would contribute toward increasing the "awareness" of the two countries on the path toward reunification. The leaders called for accelerating the work of the unity committees, ensuring the implementation of what has been agreed upon by the two leaderships, and "mobilizing and organizing loyal efforts" for reunification.

In broadcasting developments possibly related to the summit talks between the leaders of the two Yemens, the clandestine South Yemen Freedom Radio beamed to the PDRY was noted during the period 24 to 31 August to have discontinued vitriolic attacks on the Aden government and its leaders, and the clandestine Democratic National Front Radio beamed to the YAR has not been heard since 28 August.

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'ARAFAT CABLES AL-ASAD ON MERGER WITH LIBYA

JN022026 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1915 GMT 2 Sep 80

[Text of cable to President Hafiz al-Asad from PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat--date not given]

[Text] We are overcome with pride at the blessed unionist pan-Arab step consisting in the declaration of merger with Libya. This step comes in the present difficult and serious circumstances of our Arab nation in confronting the Zionists and U.S. imperialists, which throw their weight at this stage on the Palestinian revolution and fraternal Syria for its being the forward base for confrontation and steadfastness against the Zionist and imperialist enemy and his expansionist ambitions in the region.

In this context we view your approval of the blessed step with Libya as a pan-Arab and sincere response in confronting the Zionist-U.S. imperialist defiance. The United States and Israel and their agent As-Sadat are doing their utmost to shake the edifice of Arab steadfastness bravely confronting the Camp David plot. Within this framework there came the intensive Zionist series of aggressions against the Palestinian gun and then striking at Syria's steadfastness so as to pave the way for imposing capitulation on this nation. Our Palestinian people inside and outside the occupied territory and the Lebanese people, together with the fraternal Syrian people have carried the burden of confronting this savage onslaught. The glorious victories scored in facing it on the territory of the heroic south, in the skies of Lebanon or in occupied Palestine affirm our Arab nation's solidarity and its confrontation of defiance.

Mr President: Your blessed unionist step certainly constitutes a real impetus to the persistent struggle on this part of the large Arab homeland and a pan-Arab model for palestine and the entire Arab nation.

In my own name and on behalf of the PLO Executive Committee and the persevering Palestinian people, we greet your unionist steps. I pray that Almighty God will grant us success to achieve our Arab nation's aspirations and liberate Palestine and holy Jerusalem. Revolution until victory.

Message to Al-Qadhdhafi

NC022123 (Clandestine) Voice of Palestine in Arabic to the Arab World 1615 GMT 2 Sep 80

[Text] Brother commander Abu 'Ammar today sent messages to President Hafiz al-Asad and Col Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi in which he affirmed the Palestinian revolution's pride in the blessed pan-Arab step on declaring a union [wahdah indimajiyah] between Syria and the Libyan Jamahiriyah. Brother Abu 'Ammar also affirmed that Syria's agreement to enter into a union with Libya is a sincere pan-Arab response to confront the challenge facing the Arab nation.

In his message to Colonel al-Qadhdhafi, Brother Abu 'Ammar says that the Palestinian revolution views the Jamahiriyah's unionist step as a conscious and sincere response to confront the imperialist-Zionist plots that are trying to undermine the Arab nation's rights.

'ARAFAT DISCUSSES LEBANON, FAHD'S CALL FOR JIHAD

GF301430 Kuwait AL-QABAS in Arabic 29 Aug 80 pp 3, 4

[Excerpts] [Question] Is the Arnun [southern Lebanon] operation related to the Israeli decision to annex Arab Jerusalem?

[Answer] I should say that the Arnun operation will not be the last. We in the Palestinian revolution expect other similar operations. We are in a state of alert in all our positions, especially as the command of the UN interim forces in Lebanon has reported to Dr Kurt Waldheim about the presence of Israeli troop concentrations in the border areas. These are both infantry and mobilized forces, and are in addition to the Israeli naval concentrations along the Lebanese coastline from Beirut to Tyre.

We believe that this Israeli military operation is linked to the political process resulting from the Camp David conspiracy. The aim is that when the new U.S. president assumes his post, the Palestinian revolution would have been liquidated, cut down to size or dealt a blow and the Palestinian question ended. That is Israel's plan. The Israelis believe that they can do this during the U.S. elections. They think they can strike at the Palestinian revolution so that the Camp David and the self-rule conspiracies can go ahead. The Palestinian revolution would be in a weak position internationally.

I challenge them. They cannot continue the Camp David and self-rule conspiracy so long as the Palestinian gun is shouldered and loaded. They are trying to destroy this gun; hence the significance of the victory achieved by our forces in Arnun in the face of an aggression launched from the ground, the sea and the air by the Golani brigade, which has been trained for special operations. It was this brigade that occupied Sinai's most important pass, the Mitla Pass, and fought on Mount Hermon.

[Question] Some people expect Israel to launch a large-scale offensive during the U.S. presidential elections, particularly following the UN Security Council resolution and the meetings of the Jerusalem Committee.

[Answer] First, we have to say that the United States has given its blessing and green light to Israeli operations. The contradiction between the remarks by the U.S. ambassador in Beirut and the subsequent U.S. Government admonition to the ambassador reveals the U.S. collusion in the Israeli military aggression against us in souther Lebanon. They could not bear what their ambassador said casually about the aggression against Lebanese territory--and he did not express any sentiments toward the Palestinians but was merely referring to the aggression against Lebanese territory. And he is an ambassador to the country that has been a victim of aggression. They could not bear the U.S. ambassador's stand. This indicates that the United States gave the green light for this operation and for Israel's military escalation in southern Lebanon.

I believe that the Americans said to the Israelis: Seize the opportunity of our preoccupation and the world's preoccupation with our elections and escalate things militarily. If the Arabs--and some of them are our friends--come to us, we'll tell them we can do nothing because we are busy with the elections.

I cannot understand how elections could hinder a great power in making decisions or taking stands. The policies of a superpower are not affected by elections but are consistent. There is collusion and there is a conspiracy, and both are ultimately linked to what they agreed at Camp David.

[Question] Do you expect further air confrontations between Syria and Israel?

[Answer] Yesterday's dogfight indicates an escalation not only in southern Lebanon but in the whole area. This is a joint Palestinian-Syrian analysis on which we agreed during the meetings of the confrontation and steadfastness states' defense ministers.

The Israeli military escalation does not threaten only the Palestinian revolution and the Lebanese national movement, or the Palestinian and Lebanese peoples, but the entire region, the area's security, which is linked to European security, and the security of the world.

[Question] Do you feel attempts are being made to undermine the Syrian-Palestinian-Lebanese cohesion? The recent events in northern Lebanon and in other areas of Lebanon for instance?

[Answer] Neither the Palestinian resistance nor the Lebanese nationalist movement had anything to do with the events in northern Lebanon. What happened was the action of some undisciplined elements who had no connection with the Palestinian resistance or the Lebanese national movement. Nevertheless, the Lebanese-Palestinian joint command met and made some decisions. As a result we sent a joint delegation led by Abu al-Hawl [Hayil 'Abd al-Hamid]. Col Muhammad Ghanim was a member of the delegation as a representative of the Arab Deterrent Force. The Lebanese national movement, the Palestinian resistance and the Arab Deterrent Force all cooperated to stop the fighting. A short while ago they telephoned me from Tripoli and asked me to keep Abu al-Hawl there so that he could deal with the repercussions of the situation. Accordingly, I asked Abu al-Hawl, who was supposed to have led our delegation to the Arab interior ministers conference, to remain in northern Lebanon. Another brother from the Palestinian resistance led the Palestinian delegation to the conference so that Abu al-Hawl could resolve the situation with his Lebanese and Syrian brothers.

I would like to point out that the recent events in northern Lebanon are external attempts to instigate sectarian problems.

[Question] What is your attitude toward the recent declaration by Saudi Crown Prince Fahd on Jihad?

[Answer] We issued a statement on our stand. In a Palestinian working paper we insisted that the conferees in the Jerusalem Committee meeting adopt the call by Saudi Crown Prince Fahd. A discussion took place and we were not able to take a clear decision on this matter. I insisted on the convening of an extraordinary Islamic summit conference. The brothers agreed to convene an ordinary Islamic conference next December. They agreed to hold an extraordinary Islamic foreign ministers conference in Rabat on 18 September to discuss Jerusalem and jihad. The Palestinian resistance insists that the Arab and Muslim nations exercise this right. I ask: If the Arab and Muslim nations do not exercise this right now, when will they?

[Question] Does the PLO have a detailed military and political plan for implementation of the declaration of Jihad?

[Answer] Of course. As a start we have opened the doors to volunteers to join the Palestinian revolution. We have a comprehensive and detailed plan for jihad.

[Question] Do you have any information on the possibility of postponing next October's Arab summit conference until after the U.S. elections?

[Answer] This is an historic fallacy. As I said a short while ago, do the great powers change their policies with the change of their leaders? It is true that the president plays a role in decisionmaking. However, his role is no more than 30 percent, while the establishment--especially in the major countries--plays the principal role.

I do not know why people pin their hopes on the possibility of a change in U.S. policy with the coming of a new president. The U.S. stand toward the Arab nation is clear: It is hostile to the Palestinian people's rights, it uses the veto and declares that it will exercise its right of veto on all matters concerning Israel.

[Question] Libyan leader Col Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi has called on Iraq and Syria to reach an understanding. Will you make a special effort to try and bring Baghdad and Damascus closer to each other?

[Answer] I have said in the past that we shall continue to act as bridges of confidence among the Arab nation, and particularly in Syrian-Iraqi relations, because this is a matter that is very important for the eastern front.

[Question] What is your assessment of what is being said about a new Romanian initiative in the Middle East?

[Answer] There is no Romanian initiative. Romanian emissaries visited me. I met with the Romanian president twice, once in Belgrade during Marshal Tito's funeral and once in Bucharest when I went at his invitation, and he did not come up with any initiative. President Ceausescu talked about what we could do to activate the situation. I was very clear when I told him: We Palestinians do not have numerous doors. We only have one door, the United Nations. We act through the United Nations and its resolutions. We insist on acting through the United Nations.

[Question] What are the specifics of the plan to provoke problems in Turkey, Asmara, Masirah, Iran and the Arab countries?

[Answer] A part of the attempt to liquidate the Palestinian revolution is linked to the U.S. world strategy which views this area as its sphere of influence and brings to it three fleets: the 6th Fleet, the 7th Fleet--which it brought from the China Sea-- and the 5th Fleet it set up in Diego Garcia. And this is in addition to the rapid deployment force. The United States announced the arrival of its advance units in the gulf region 10 days ago.

Some of the acts of sabotage taking place in some parts of the gulf are in fact U.S. operations intended to frighten the gulf countries. These operations are engineered by the U.S. CIA in response to the refusal of those Arab states to accept the principle of the establishment of U.S. bases.

This is an important point, particularly as the Arab Gulf countries reject the presence of U.S. bases on their territory. I am sorry that the United States has been given a base in Oman, that it has set up a base in Berbera, a base in Kenya, and the biggest U.S. base in the Middle East in the area of Qana in upper Egypt. They used this last base in the Dasht-e Lut desert operation against the Iranian revolution.

PDRY

CHAIRMAN RETURNS FROM MEETING WITH YAR COUNTERPART

LD021701 Aden Domestic Service in Arabic 1230 GMT 2 Sep 80

[Text] Brother 'Ali Nasir Muhammad, secretary general of the YSP Central Committee, chairman of the Presidium of the People's Supreme Council and chairman of the Council of Ministers, returned to Aden with his accompanying delegation at noon today, after paying a brief 2-day visit to Ta'izz in the northern part of our homeland.

During the visit he held fraternal meetings and discussions with Brother 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, president of the republic and commander in chief of the armed forces of the northern part of the homeland, within the framework of the fraternal coordination, meetings and discussions in progress between the leaders of the two parts with a view to achieving Yemeni unity. The Ta'izz meeting also covered the discussion of a number of issues of importance to the region and our Arab peoples and developments in the Middle East.

Before leaving Ta'izz, Brother 'Ali Nasir gave a press statement in which he said: As we leave the immortal city of Ta'izz on the path of the struggles of our Yemeni people, we are pleased to express our satisfaction with the useful results achieved during our meeting with Brother 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, president of the republic and commander in chief of its armed forces, which afforded us the opportunity of discussing our earlier meetings and a number of issues important to our Yemeni people and homeland. In our opinion, the results of this meeting represent a new step along the same path of our choice toward achieving the aim of our Yemeni people: the unification of our people and territory.

This meeting also afforded us the opportunity to discuss responsibly the security and stability of the Yemeni people and [word indistinct] the Arab people and the situation and developments in the region. We exchanged views on these topics and on developments in the Middle East. We affirmed the importance of continuing discussion of these important issues which concern our people and the peoples of the Arab nation. As I voice my satisfaction with the results of the Ta'izz meeting with brother President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, I also highly appreciate the friendly good will shown us during our brief visit.

Brother 'Ali Nasir Muhammad left Ta'izz this morning by road for the southern part of the homeland. He was accompanied as far as Ar-Rahidah by Brother 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih and a number of senior officials of the northern part of the homeland. [passage indistinct]

YAR

YAR-PDRY JOINT PRESS STATEMENT ISSUED ON LEADER'S VISIT

JN030841 San'a' Domestic Service in Arabic 1700 GMT 2 Sep 80

[Text of Joint YAR-PDRY press statement on visit to Ta'izz by PDRY leader 'Ali Nasir Muhammad--date not given]

[Text] Brother Col 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, president of the republic and commander in chief of the armed forces in the northern part of the homeland, and Brother 'Ali Nasir Muhammad, secretary general of the Central Committee of the Yemeni Socialist Party, chairman of the Supreme People's Council Presidium and chairman of the Council of Ministers in the southern part of the homeland, met in the city of Ta'izz on 1 and 2 September 1980.

During this meeting, which took place in an atmosphere of fraternity, loyalty and dedication to the Yemeni people and their revolutionary national goals, the two leaders reviewed the results achieved at previous meetings in San'a' and Aden. They discussed further steps to reunite the homeland, the committees' achievements on this great path and what has so far been implemented with regard to economic coordination, trade exchange, encouraging tourism and land and sea transport between the two parts of the homeland, since this represents a significant and necessary step that not only serves the one Yemeni people and their progress and advancement. Indeed, these exchanges guarantee the presence of new circumstances and atmosphere, which in turn, contributes to bolstering our awareness on the path of reuniting the homeland--the path of the people's progress and prosperity.

The two leaders called for increased efforts in accelerating the accomplishment of duties and responsibilities entrusted to the unity committees in accordance with the Cairo agreement, the Tripoli statement and subsequent joint statements issued by the leaderships of the two parts of the homeland; in ensuring implementation of what has been agreed on between the two leaderships; and in mobilizing and organizing the loyal efforts to achieve the noblest of the Yemeni masses' aspirations--reuniting their homeland.

The two leaders agreed on continuing meetings and overcoming any difficulties which might arise and hinder the implementation of what has been agreed on. In order to encourage contacts between the sons of the one Yemeni people in the two parts of the homeland, the two leaders affirmed their support for all the unification activities and cooperation among all popular and professional institutions and mass organizations.

The two leaders stressed the need to exchange visits among sports and technical teams and implement the agreement signed between the two parts on cooperation and coordination in the fields of culture and information.

The two leaders expressed their gratitude for past and future achievements in the two parts in seeking to advance Yemeni society and achieve its aspirations and ambitions in reuniting its two parts.

In reviewing development in the political situation in this region, in which the two parts of Yemen enjoy a major and important geographic location, the two leaders expressed their firm determination to continue their peaceful activity in regard to the two parts' foreign relations with countries in the region, thus reflecting their commitment to the principles and charters of the United Nations and of the Arab League and to the principles of the nonaligned movement and of peaceful coexistence among countries with social systems.

Expressing their awareness of the importance of peace and stability in peoples' development and progress, the two leaders expressed their strong apprehensions of the foreign military presence in the region, a presence which has taken different forms and threatens the stability of the region's states and peoples.

While stressing the need to make the Red Sea, African Horn, Indian Ocean and Arab Gulf a region of peace and security, the two leaders also stressed the need to rally and mobilize all Arab potentials for the fateful Arab battle against Zionism and colonialism and in order to achieve the goals of the Palestinian revolution under the PLO--the Palestinian people's sole legitimate representative.

The two leaders affirmed our principled and inalienable denunciation of the Camp David accords, which threaten the Arab people's rights, particularly the Palestinian people's rights.

The two leaders stressed that the current circumstances facing our Arab nation necessitate reuniting, overcoming differences, purifying the atmosphere and rallying all potentials and capabilities in the service of the Arab nation's battle with its real enemies.

They believe that their meeting constitutes a significant step toward the common goal of our masses in both parts of the homeland--reuniting the homeland. Indeed, this is the goal of all our efforts and (?meetings) and would contribute to bolstering security and stability.

YAR-PDRY LAND, SEA TRANSPORT COMPANIES ESTABLISHED

JN311543 San'a' Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 31 Aug 80

[Text] A law has been issued ratifying the 12 June 1980 agreement between the governments of the two parts of the homeland on establishing a Yemeni overland transport company. A second law was issued ratifying the 20 June 1980 agreement between the governments of the two parts of the homeland on establishing a Yemeni sea transport company.

BRIEFS

NEW KUWAITI AMBASSADORS--The official gazette published today carries new appointments of Kuwaiti ambassadors abroad: Sa'ud Nasir as-Sabah, ambassador to the United States; 'Abd ar-Razzaq 'Abd al-Qadir al-Kandari, ambassador to Syria; Musa Sulayman Musa, ambassador to Bahrain; Badr Ahmad al-Haddad, ambassador to Mauritania; Ghazi Muhammad Amin ar-Rais, ambassador to the UK. On the other hand, the present Kuwaiti ambassador to the United States, Khalid Muhammad Ja'far, is moved to a post in the Foreign Ministry. [Kuwait Domestic Service in Arabic 1000 GMT 31 Aug 80 LD]

U.S. SPECIAL AMBASSADOR LINOWITZ ARRIVES IN CAIRO

NC031016 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1000 GMT 3 Sep 80

[Text] Sol Linowitz, the head of the U.S. delegation to the autonomy talks, arrived in Cairo today before noon on a 1-day visit to Egypt. Mr Linowitz will go to Alexandria to meet President Anwar as-Sadat and exchange views on the situation in the Middle East, the Israeli obstacles in the path of the negotiations, and ways of insuring the efficiency of efforts aimed at achieving an overall peace in the area.

ISRAEL'S WEIZMAN, AMBASSADOR BEN-ELISAR ARRIVE 31 AUG

NC311802 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1644 GMT 31 Aug 80

[Text] Cairo, 31 Aug (MENA)--Former Israeli Defense Minister 'Ezer Weizman arrived in Cairo this evening for a 7-day private visit to Egypt at the invitation of Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Kamal Hasan 'Ali.

Israeli Ambassador to Egypt Eliyahu ben-Elisar also arrived in Cairo on the same plane, following a brief visit to his country, during which he conveyed a verbal message from President as-Sadat to Israeli Prime Minister Menahem Begin.

Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Dr Butrus Ghali met Weizman at the airport.

Weizman Arrival Comments

NC312018 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1934 GMT 31 Aug 80

[Text] Cairo, 31 Aug (MENA)--[Former] Israeli Defense Minister 'Ezer Weizman has said he believes that peace will not be lost in the Middle East because of the present impasse in the Palestinian autonomy negotiations.

In a statement following his arrival in Cairo today, Weizman also said that he felt confident of the likelihood that peace will be achieved. He said that had be believed otherwise, he wouldn't have come to Cairo. He added that he knows the persons who worked to achieved peace in each of the two countries, namely, Egypt and Israel, particularly in Egypt--beginning with President Anwar as-Sadat. At the same time, Weizman warned that not a single day should be allowed to pass without an achievement having been made, "because this is considered a loss in view of the fact that it is possible to make a new achievement with every new day."

Replying to a question about the present impasse in the peace negotiations on autonomy, Weizman said: "This time I have come in my personal capacity. Because I believe that the normalization process ranks among the most important achievements made by Egypt and Israel in the past 3 years, it is imperative for us to continue to make headway. If we take stock of the past 3 years, I would state that I always view this phase with optimism."

As-Sadat Receives Weizman

NC011433 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1427 GMT 1 Sep 80

[Text] Alexandria, 1 Sep (MENA)--President Muhammad Anwar as-Sadat today received former Israeli Defense Minister 'Ezer Weizman, who is on a private visit to Cairo. The 90-minute meeting was attended by Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Kamal Hasan 'Ali and Defense and War Production Minister Lt Gen Ahmad Badawi.

AS-SADAT RECEIVES ISRAELI AMBASSADOR, BEGIN MESSAGE

NC030655 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 0500 GMT 3 Sep 80

[From the press review]

[Text] AL-AHRAM writes that, yesterday, President as-Sadat received Israeli Ambassador in Cairo Eliyahu ben-Elisar, who returned to Cairo after a visit to Israel during which he met with Menahem Begin and conveyed President as-Sadat's verbal message to him. The Israeli ambassador then conveyed Begin's reply to President as-Sadat's message. These exchanges come within the framework of bilateral contacts.

EC REPRESENTATIVE THORN CONCLUDES VISIT, DEPARTS

Ghali Statement on Palestinians

NC011416 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1230 GMT 1 Sep 80

[Text] Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Dr Butrus Ghali has stated that during the discussions he held in Cairo with the Luxembourg foreign minister it was agreed to coordinate Egyptian and European diplomatic activity in order to help the Palestinian people and achieve a comprehensive settlement on the Middle East problem. He added that there was no contradiction between the Egyptian and European diplomatic activity or between the diplomatic activity which Egypt is carrying out within the framework of the tripartite efforts, which have been frozen, or within the framework of the United Nations and the OAU and the bilateral contacts it is holding. This is because Egypt's goal behind all these contacts is to achieve a durable and comprehensive peace in the Middle East.

In a statement to the radio correspondent, Dr Ghali said that the Luxembourg foreign minister was given Egypt's views on the Middle East problem, the alternatives it is considering and the role which the European states can play to contribute to the realization of a lasting settlement. He added that the leaders of the EC will debate the Egyptian view at their meetings on 15 and 16 September.

Thorn Departure From Cairo

NC311758 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1637 GMT 31 Aug 80

[Text] Cairo, 31 Aug (MENA)--Gaston Thorn, Luxembourg foreign minister and chairman of the EC Ministerial Council, left Cairo this evening following a 3-day visit to Egypt. Yesterday President as-Sadat received Gaston Thorn. Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Dr Butrus Ghali saw Gaston Thorn off at the airport.

FOREIGN MINISTRY OFFICIAL ON EUROPEAN INITIATIVE, MUBARAK TOUR

NC022212 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2040 GMT 2 Sep 80

[Text] London, 2 Sep (MENA)--Egyptian Foreign Ministry First Under Secretary Usamah al-Baz has stated in London that the object of Husni Mubarak's tour of some European states and his current visit to Britain is to hold consultations on developments in the Middle East, particularly concerning the autonomy negotiations in order that the British Government may be fully informed.

Dr al-Baz added: We are seeking to convince the Israeli Government of the futility of the measures it adopted on Jerusalem and the ineffectiveness of the policy of settlements and of military interference in southern Lebanon and also of the ineffectiveness of the repressive measures it adopts in the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

At a press conference he held at the Egyptian Embassy in London today, Dr al-Baz stressed that the British Government shares our concern over the effect of this negative Israeli attitude. They [the British] are also aware o' the results of this attitude and of the need to go ahead with the negotiations in order to reach a comprehensive settlement in the Middle East.

Concerning the attitude of the European Common Market, Dr al-Baz said: We have not discussed a specific initiative. Contacts among the European Common Market states have been going on for more than 18 months and the European initiative has not yet crystallized. The market states are also holding contacts with the parties concerned.

Dr al-Baz pointed out that Gaston Thorn has not yet submitted a report to the Common Market's foreign ministers on the results of his tour of the Middle East, and that the initiative has not yet assumed a final form. They, he said, are studying ways of helping the parties concerned reach an agreement. The European states have a role and they are qualified to play this because of geographic proximity, the closeness between Europe and the Middle East and the connection between the establishment of peace and stability in the Middle East and European security.

The Egyptian under secretary went on: It is certain that they [the European states] would like to inform Israel that it is necessary to refrain from adopting any measures which would widen the gap [words indistinct]. This would depend on Israel's acceptance of the advice offered by the European states. Mr Begin has not yet proved his readiness to listen to advice. We expect Europe to carry out a bigger role, hold contacts with the parties concerned and consult with the United States.

Dr al-Baz stressed that there was no alternative to the American role and that Europe's participation in the process of establishing peace in the region is not a complicating factor but a helping factor. He also reaffirmed that the Venice statement is balanced and does not complicate the situation, particularly because the European role does not conflict with the peace agreements. He added that European participation was correct and that a European initiative would not be a negative factor, but an essential role.

Al-Baz further said: The peace agreements are still in effect and valid. We welcome the European role as long as it would not be an alternative to the Camp David agreement. If this role were to conflict with Camp David, then Israel would disavow its commitments stipulated in the agreements. This is why we have emphasized in the past that any move that aims at creating a substitute for the Camp David agreements would be a wrong move. The European states statement is not an alternative to the existing agreements and if the European initiative remains within this range, it would be a contributing factor.

Al-Baz emphasized that Egypt was discharging its commitments toward the peace process and that it respects its international commitments. He said that by its negative attitude, Israel was creating serious precedents not only in its dealings with Egypt, but with other world states as well.

Concerning the situation between Egypt and Saudi Arabia, his excellency said that no official contacts have been held with Saudi Arabia since the severance of relations. Al-Baz added that despite this, there were certain factors which helped improve the atmosphere between the two countries, particularly after the storm that had blown in the wake of the Baghdad conference had died down and after the Arab brothers realized that their fears were groundless when the establishment of peace between Egypt and Israel did not mean a violation of Egypt's commitments or an abandonment of its role in the area. Time will definitely prove that the Egyptian approach is the most realistic, and that it will lead to an agreement despite the difficulties and despite the fact that the establishment of peace in the region is a difficult process.

Dr al-Baz referred to the increase in the number of Saudi tourists visiting Egypt, saying that this did not reflect a rapprochement in political views.

Al-Baz denied that there was any connection between Husni Mubarak's current visit to London and the visit of King Husayn, who arrived on a private visit yesterday. He said: When the appropriate time comes, we will hold contacts the proper way. The present differences among the Arabs are temporary. There is also no connection between the discussions which Husni Mubarak will hold with Mrs Thatcher today and the discussions which [Arab League Secretary General] Chedli Klibi will hold with her tomorrow.

Answering a question by the correspondent of YEDI'OT AHARONOT on whether the tour of Husni Mubarak conflicts with President as-Sadat's policy of pursuing quiet diplomacy, Usamah al-Baz said: When As-Sadat spoke, he was not referring to the pursuance of quiet diplomacy with the outside world. He was referring to the dialogue between Egypt and Israel which assumed a violent form and culminated in the exchange of letters. His excellency the president demanded quiet diplomacy in this respect. The tour of the vice president is a mission in the interests of peace and even in the interests of Israel itself, because its object is to keep the world interested in the process of establishing peace in the region.

Replying to another question about reports in Israel about the annexation of the Golan Heights, Dr Usamah al-Baz said: If such a measure were to be taken, as in the case of the Knesset's irresponsible measure regarding Jerusalem, then this would be another negative development in the situation which would have adverse results. Moreover, such measures are null and void and have no legal standing. What is basically important regarding such measures is that they create an adverse psychological effect prompting moderate Palestinians to become intransigent and adopt a hard line, regardless of their faith in the method of negotiations. They also have a negative effect on the attitude of moderate Palestinians, Syrians and other Arabs and hamper the achievement of a comprehensive agreement.

Regarding British-Egyptian relations, Dr Usamah al-Baz said that Egypt and Britain were cooperating in various fields, including the military field, but that the present visit of the vice president is of a political and not a military nature. He added that Husni Mubarak had frequently held discussions with the British Government on military affairs and that today's discussions were a mere continuation of these contacts.

Commenting on Al-Qadhdhafi's announcement yesterday regarding unity between Syria and Libya, Dr al-Baz said: I wish Syria and Libya good luck. He pointed out that each of them was still linked in a unity scheme with Egypt, saying: We celebrate the unity anniversary every year.

Asked whether the U.S. elections would result in the success of the Republican candidate, Mr Reagan, Al-Baz said: It is difficult even for the Americans themselves to predict the outcome. We do not expect a great change in the U.S. administration. A change might mean some delay or a change of methods.

Replying to a question about a new government in Israel, Al-Baz said: What is important is not a change in the Cabinet but a change in position. We are building peace with the people of Israel. The experiment calls for all sincere efforts and loyalty. We are now in the middle of the journey. The real test requires a desire by the Israeli Government to implement the letter and spirit of the agreements. He added that Israel's negative attitude was obstructing the continuation of the negotiations and that if Israel were to change its negative stand, then it would be possible to restart the negotiations at any time.

AL-AKHBAR ATTACKS SYRIAN-ETHIOPIAN COOPERATION, SOVIET RELATIONS

NC281045 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 0613 GMT 28 Aug 80

[Press review]

[Excerpts] The newspapers speak of the Syrian Ba'thist 'Alawite regime. They say that there is another Karmal in Syria, who will draw this fraternal Arab country into undesirable blind alleys.

In this respect the newspapers note the new relations between Syria and Ethiopia. The newspaper AL-AKHBAR says: It was announced suddenly yesterday that Ethiopia and Syria will exchange diplomatic relations at embassy level as soon as possible. The report says: This announcement followed the Ethiopian foreign minister's 5-day visit to Damascus after a period fraught with tense relations between the two countries--a period spanning several years.

This news, which was announced suddenly yesterday, must be viewed together with other reports which say that Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad will soon proceed to Moscow to sign a treaty of friendship and cooperation with the Soviets. These reports say that the Syrians are trying to convince the Soviets to include in the treaty a proviso which will commit Moscow to intervene militarily and spontaneously on Syria's side, when any aggression is launched against Syria or when it is subjected to any domestic danger.

The newspaper says: This matter has been well known from the start. It began with Gromyko's visit to Damascus where he spent 3 days with Comrade Hafiz al-Asad and the Ba'thist 'Alawite group. Gromyko asked them to support the Soviet invasion of Afghanistan in a tangible manner. Gromyko also asked the Ba'thist 'Alawites to conclude a defense treaty with the Soviet Union modeled after the treaty which Karmal signed with the Soviets.

Upon his departure from Damascus, Gromyko told newsmen: President Hafiz al-Asad will visit Moscow soon. It was construed that the visit would be made to sign the treaty.

AL-AKHBAR adds: Al-Asad's visit to Moscow and the signing of the treaty with the Soviets had been agreed on from the beginning. However, some issues appeared which caused the visit and the signing of the treaty to be deferred until this time. The reason is that the Soviets had asked Al-Asad to announce his support for the Soviet invasion of Afghanistan in a tangible manner. Al-Asad met with the rest of the agents of Libya, the PDRY and Algeria--and they announced their support for the invasion and the extermination of the Muslim Afghan people. But Al-Asad was unable to extend tangible support and send his forces to fight the Afghan people under the very eyes of the Arab and Muslim world.

The Soviets asked for such support because the presence of any Muslim forces fighting on their side in Afghanistan would lend credibility to their position in world opinion. The Soviets wanted to intervene in Syria at Al-Asad's and the Ba'thist 'Alawite group's request, just as it did at Karmal's behest in Afghanistan. Such an action would endow the Soviets with a legitimate status, if only in appearance. The Soviets would be able to say that they were asked to intervene. Al-Asad could not bear making such a request in the sight and hearing of the Arab world. Al-Asad could not face people saying that he personally requested a Soviet presence and invasion in the very heart of the Arab homeland.

For this reason, and as can be concluded from the latest reports, they agreed that the Soviet intervention, or the entry of Soviet forces into Syria, should be made spontaneously and without request.

AL-AKHBAR says: Anyway, as we have already said, the purpose is the same. Hafiz al-Asad will play the same role as Karmal played in Afghanistan. An agreement will be reached on staging this theatrical farce during the imminent visit by the new Karmal, Al-Asad, to Moscow and at his meeting with Brezhnev. There are several reasons to require Soviet intervention or invasion. One reason is the present state of affairs Syrian-Iraqi relations. Another is the fierce popular resistance which the Ba'thist 'Alawite regime is facing--and this resistance remains unscathed by the puppets of Al-Asad and his ilk. Then there is the clash with Israel which the Ba'thists recently provoked in Lebanon.

AL-AKHBAR links the Syrian situation to that of Afghanistan. It says: The Soviets have a predetermined objective in stationing their forces in Syria. They have invaded Afghanistan in order to extend their influence in, and domination of, the oil areas in Iran and the Arab Gulf. In the same vein, the Soviets want their invasion of Syria to enable them to be somewhere near Saudi Arabia so as to dominate its oil--and this is the Soviets' major objective.

Perhaps this is the secret of this rabid campaign launched by the Ba'thist 'Alawites of Syria against Saudi Arabia at this time. It is clear that the Soviets want to move quickly in this area. For this reason, they want to bolster their position through this Syrian-Ethiopian cooperation, which they have announced so suddenly. Furthermore, this cooperation has induced the two Soviet bases--namely, Syria and Ethiopia--to cooperate and to exchange ambassadors in the near future, and this after their relationship had been in the process of being torn by tension and conflict.

The first sign of this cooperation between these agents is the fact that Syria and Ethiopia have condemned the building of military bases in the Indian Ocean and near the Horn of Africa. The two states also protested against the setting up of American bases in Somalia. The next few days will teem with numerous surprises.

COPTIC PATRIARCHATE DENIES ALLEGED AL-QADHDHAFI CABLE

NC242252 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2244 GMT 24 Aug 80

[Text] Cairo, 24 Aug (MENA)--The Egyptian patriarchate of the Orthodox Copts has stated that the [Coptic] pope has not received a cable from Col Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi and that he has not been subjected to an assassination attempt as stated in the cable which was published by the press.

In a statement to be published by the Cairo newspapers tomorrow, the patriarchate says that the issue is merely a political maneuver that has certain objectives.

BRIEFS

FOREIGN MINISTRY APPOINTMENTS--Cairo, 31 Aug (MENA)--It has been decided to appoint Ambassador Salah Basyuni as director of the Foreign Ministry's Research and Information Department to succeed Ambassador Hasan Shash, who has been appointed Egyptian ambassador in Budapest. Previously Ambassador Basyuni held the posts of ambassador to Budapest and Addis Ababa. [Text] [Cairo MENA in Arabic 1140 GMT 31 Aug 80 NC]

FOREIGN MINISTRY SPOKESMAN ON SOMALI-U.S. FACILITIES AGREEMENT

JN021324 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1300 GMT 2 Sep 80

[Text] Baghdad, 2 Sep (INA)--Iraq has strongly denounced the U.S.-Somali agreement by which Somalia granted the United States military facilities in the ports of Berbera and Mogadishu.

A Foreign Ministry official spokesman said that this Somali-U.S. agreement will increase the superpowers' rivalry in the region and will expose the Arab nation's sovereignty, security and safety to further dangers. He affirmed that this agreement can only serve the interests of colonialism and Zionism, facilitate the implementation of their hostile schemes and plots against the Arab nation and expose world security and peace to danger. The official spokesman called on all Arab countries to resist this agreement, as it represents an action hostile to the Arab nation's independence and is contrary to non-aligned principles.

ATH-THAWRAH CRITICIZES U.S. ON BOEING PLANES DEAL

JN021018 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0850 GMT 2 Sep 80

[Excerpts] Baghdad, 2 Sep (INA)--The newspaper ATH-THAWRAH has condemned the U.S. administration's decision to impede the agreement signed between Iraq and the Boeing Company on the purchase of five civilian planes. In a commentary today, ATH-THAWRAH says that this measure constitutes a hostile stand against Iraq, intended to achieve several cunning designs simultaneously. Through this particular stand, the U.S. administration is seeking to gain the favor and support of the majority of Zionist voters in the presidential election campaign, using the platform of blatant hostility to the Arab nation, since this is the most acceptable to Zionist circles.

The paper adds that this U.S. measure is part of the Zionist, U.S. and Persian quarters' frenzied campaign against Iraq's use of nuclear energy for development purposes and against Iraq's principled stands and firm confrontation of imperialist machinations and plots to liquidate the Palestinian issue.

ATH-THAWRAH also notes that Iraq will not succumb to pressure and blackmail. It will continue to remain the vanguard of pan-Arab struggle and faithful to this struggle's principles and mission, until all the pan-Arab objectives are achieved.

ATH-THAWRAH COMMENTS ON 'AQRAWI'S DEFECTION TO SYRIA

JN311209 Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic 1600 GMT 28 Aug 80

[ATH-THAWRAH 28 August editorial: "Birds of a Feather Flock Together"]

[Text] In Damascus, the city which is revolting against its bloody and isolated rulers and is awaiting the hour to get rid of this regime so as to regain its national purity and role and to do away with sectarian conspiracy and the evils of corruption and slavery, in this sad and wounded city 'Aziz Rashid Aqrawi held a press conference which was given publicity by the Syrian information media. 'Aziz insulted and slandered the Iraqi regime and its national sovereignty.

When we go back to this man's record, we see why he fled to Syria and joined the [word indistinct] regime there. We all know the old saying: Birds of a feather flock together. When he left the Barzani clique, 'Aziz accused the revolution of betraying the homeland. The revolution welcomed him and considered him one of its sons. It honored him and gave him every legitimate chance to serve his country and people.

But the problem with this man is that he is incapable and unqualified. He started a party but failed to lead it. So the rank and file rose against him and dismissed him. He was nominated for the National Assembly but failed to be elected. The revolution is generous, but it cannot and must not impose anyone on the people. However, 'Aziz Rashid wanted something else. He wanted the revolution to impose him as a leader, while is is unworthy and unqualified. The revolution did not and will not do that.

Therefore, instead of choosing the modest course and honest patriotism, 'Aziz wanted to be a leader and to be in the limelight, even if that meant following the course of treason and ingratitude. He went to the most corrupt and doomed regime, which has been disowned by its people, a regime which wants to hold onto anything to stay alive, even if this thing is 'Aziz Rashid.

We will not reply to this man's insults and slander because the revolution is too noble to stoop so low. The reply will come from the masses of Iraq and Kurdistan, the masses of As-Sulaymaniyah, Arbil and Dahuk, who are rallying around their national leadership. The masses of Kurdistan have known traitors, adventurers, charlatans and opportunists who were more notorious than 'Aziz Rashid. Those traitors have gone and the people of Kurdistan and Iraq remain to enjoy prosperity, freedom and optimism in the future. As for 'Aziz Rashid and his new friends in Damascus, they will have no place of honor in the future.

Kurdistan Party Condemns Defection

JN310959 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0800 GMT 31 Aug 80

[Text] Baghdad, 31 Aug (INA)--The Democratic Party of Kurdistan [DPK] has strongly attacked traitor 'Aziz Rashid 'Aqrawi, saying that at one time he was linked with the Iranian SAVAK and Zionist intelligence.

In a statement published here today in the newspaper AL-'IRAQ, the party said that 'Aziz Rashid was expelled from the party on 5 June 1976 and that he has been bitter since then because of his failure in every task he undertook.

The party said that 'Aziz Rashid went to Damascus to live under the Hafiz al-Asad regime, which has deprived the Kurds of their fundamental national rights, thus causing them untold suffering.

Reviewing the history of traitor 'Aziz Rashid, the statement says: This man did not have a share in or make any contribution to the national movement before the 14 July 1958 revolution. He was helping [former Iraqi Premier] Nuri as-Sa'id carry out his plans. Thus, since the revolution, 'Aziz Rashid has been living in a cultural, social and political vacuum.

The statement says that traitor 'Aziz Rashid joined the Kurdish movement in 1962. He was known for his megalomania and egotism. He always worked against the strugglers, using the methods of torture and persecution he acquired while training peshmerga elements in sabotage and espionage and the use of explosives under the supervision of SAVAK and Zionist intelligence.

The statement says that 'Aziz Rashid occupied a key post under Barzani following the 1964 split between the Barzanites and the supporters of Talabani. He tried in every way to achieve his objectives, but he was only successful at becoming an agent. When he was a member of the party Political Bureau and during his association with SAVAK and Zionist intelligence, 'Aziz Rashid was one of the few men who visited the camps of Zionist experts and spies in Barzani's headquarters in Haj 'Umran and Dilman in northern Iraq.

The DPK statement says that 'Aziz Rashid exploited the sympathy of the 17 July revolution and designated himself secretary general of the DPK. However, the prepartory committee formed by party strugglers and leaders decided at the national congress of June 1976 to dismiss 'Aziz Rashid from the party. The statement says that by falling into the lap of the Hafiz al-Asad regime, 'Aziz Rashid has revealed his old complexes. The statement affirms that the glorious 17 July revolution is too strong to be affected by the statements made by this agent at the press conference organized for him by Syrian intelligence.

The statement adds: The Iraqi progressive national and patriotic front, which is playing a sincere national and patriotic role, has honest strugglers within its ranks. Furthermore, the autonomy granted to Kurdistan is considered one of the revolution's great achievements. As for the DPK, it will continue to be one of the vanguards of the national front and will also continue to firmly and resolutely stand side by side with the Ba'th Party in the same trench to achieve all national objectives under struggler Saddam Husayn.

KUWAITI PAPER CITED ON 27 AUG CLASHES IN DAMASCUS

JN301020 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0950 GMT 30 Aug 80

[Text] Kuwait, 30 Aug (INA)--Reports from Damascus say that armed clashes took place on Wednesday between the defense squads, which are headed by Rif'at al-Asad, and an armed group opposed to the regime.

The Kuwaiti newspaper AL-WATAN reports today that the clashes took place in the center of Damascus and the region of Victoria Bridge near the Abu Rammanah quarter. A large number from both groups were killed or wounded. The reports add that some of the opposition elements reached the rooftops and resorted to sniping.

MAGAZINE CITED ON DEATHS OF FRENCH, SOVIET EXPERTS IN SYRIA

JN301134 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1125 GMT 30 Aug 80

[Text] Paris, 30 Aug (INA)--The magazine EXPRESS reports here today that six French experts have been killed recently in Syria. The magazine adds that a number of Soviet military experts have also been killed. However, the magazine does not elaborate on those experts' tasks in Syria.

BAHRAIN PRIME MINISTER ARRIVES, MAKES STATEMENT

JN021013 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0915 GMT 2 Sep 80

[Excerpts] Baghdad, 2 Sep (INA)--Following his arrival in Baghdad today, Shaykh Khalifah ibn Salman Al Khalifah said that his visit to Iraq reflects the principle of cooperation, consultations and the exchange of viewpoints on Bahraini-Iraqi relations and on issues that concern the Arab nation. He added: The delicate circumstances affecting the Arab nation require the adoption of firm stands based on solid principles, as well as Arab coordination in confronting the challenges facing the Arab nation on all levels.

The Bahraini prime minister said that the Iraqi-Saudi initiative on boycotting any state that recognizes the annexation of Arab Jerusalem to Israel and considers it the Zionist entity's capital was the first practical, strong step in confronting the Zionist enemy's decision in this regard.

His Highness Shaykh Khalifah expressed Bahrain's appreciation for Iraq's effective and positive role on current issues in the gulf. He said that Bahrain thanks Iraq for its sincere desire for cooperation and coordination.

Received by Saddam Husayn

JN021724 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1700 GMT 2 Sep 80

[Text] Baghdad, 2 Sep (INA)--President Saddam Husayn received here this evening Bahraini Prime Minister Shayku Khalifah ibn Salman Al Khalifah and his delegation. Shaykh Khalifah conveyed to President Saddam Husayn the greetings of his brother 'Isa ibn Salman Al Khalifah, amir of Bahrain, and his wishes of further progress and prosperity to the Iraqi government and people in the service of the Arab nation in its struggle against imperialism and Zionism. During the meeting, which was attended by 'Izzat Ibrahim, Revolution Command Council vice chairman, talks were held on the latest developments and events in the Arab region as well as relations between the two fraternal countries and ways of promoting them. Also attending were Sa'dun Shakir, Revolution Command Council member and interior minister; the Iraqi ambassador to Bahrain; and the Bahraini ambassador in Baghdad.

Talks Begin 3 Sep

JN030940 Manama GULF NEWS AGENCY in Arabic 0805 GMT 3 Sep 80

[Excerpts] Baghdad, 3 Sep (GNA)--Official talks between the Bahraini delegation under Prime Minister Shaykh Khalifah ibn Salman Al Khalifah and the Iraqi delegation under 'Izzat Ibrahim, Revolution Command Council deputy chairman, began in Baghdad this morning. At the outset of the meeting, the Bahraini prime minister stressed that the two countries' relations are sound. He said: You have accustomed us to frank talk about your sincere feelings toward Bahrain. This reflects the deeprooted ties that extend throughout our long history and common destiny. The Bahraini prime minister rexpressed the hope that meetings between the two countries' leaders will continue, for the benefit of both peoples. 'Izzat Ibrahim and Shaykh Khalifah ibn Salman Al Khalifah held a closed meeting before the talks.

ACCORD ON OIL, GAS PROSPECTING SIGNED WITH MOROCCO

JN301515 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1415 GMT 30 Aug 80

[Text] Baghdad, 30 Aug (INA)--Iraq and Morocco today agreed to establish a joint company for oil and gas exploration and prospecting in Morocco. The agreement was signed on behalf of Iraq by Tayih 'Abd al-Karim, Revolution Command Council member and oil minister, and for Morocco by Moussa Saadi, minister of energy and mining research. In a speech following the signing of the agreement, the Iraqi minister expressed Iraq's readiness to achieve further cooperation in the field of oil industry between Iraq and Morocco to serve as a pioneer example among the Arab countries. In reply, the Moroccan minister praised Iraq's aid to Morocco to promote its oil industry. The Moroccan minister arrived in Baghdad last Sunday.

Moroccan Energy Minister Departs

JN310839 Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic 0800 GMT 31 Aug 80

[Text] Moussa Saadi, Moroccan minister of energy and mining research, left Baghdad this morning at the end of a 9-day visit to Iraq. Saadi expressed his thanks for the Iraqi aid to Morocco to promote Morocco's oil industry and allow it to benefit from Iraqi experience in this field. The Moroccan minister stated that it has been agreed to establish a joint Iraqi-Moroccan company for oil and gas exploration and prospecting. The offering of Iraqi expertise and studies on earthquakes and excavations and the training of Moroccan personnel have also been agreed upon. The Moroccan minister was seen off at the airport by Tayih 'Abd al-Karim, RCC member and oil minister.

BA'TH PARTY COMMAND SUPPORTS LIBYA'S CALL FOR UNITY

JN022125 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1915 GMT 2 Sep 80

[Text] Damascus--The Ba'th Party national and regional commands held a joint meeting today to study Col Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi's call for unity. At the end of the meeting the two commands issued the following statement:

Masses of our great Arab people, on the occasion of the 1 September revolution celebration, brother Col Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi invited the Libyan people's committees to approve the establishment of a merger between the two Arab countries of Libya and Syria. He introduced the invitation by a comprehensive analysis of the present situation of the Arab nation and of the grave conspiracy faced by this nation.

Syria's response was clear and rapid as contained in the cable sent by comrade struggler Hafiz al-Asad welcoming Brother Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi's call and calling for implementing this appeal to merge the two fraternal countries as a revolutionary response to the current tasks facing the Arab nation.

The Ba'th Party command, represented in the joint meeting of the national and regional commands on 2 September 1980, has studied thoroughly and seriously brother Col Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi's call and the response of comrade struggler Hafiz al-Asad and taking into consideration:

1) The Ba'th Party, since its establishment and throughout its struggle, has been the party of Arab unity. To the party, unity is an end in itself because it is a return to the original status--one nation must live in one state. The party considers unity a means because it constitutes strength in facing the enemy, strength in building a pan-Arab framework for the fruition of the Arab genius, a social and economic and cultural foundation for building the socialist unified Arab community. The party has given unity instructions to its cadres and Arab masses everywhere. It has launched an honest struggle to establish unity. It played a major role in the establishment of the first Arab unity in modern history. It has always responded to all unity appeals, struggled tenaciously against all quarters of division, regionalism and secessionism.

2) The 1 September revolution under the leadership of brother Col Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi has been a unifying, pan-Arab progressive revolution since its first day. It has taught unity education to our masses in Libya, worked to achieve unity steps in the pan-Arab framework and has always responded to unity appeals and struggled against separation and division.

3) Syria and Libya are two major pillars of the Steadfastness and Confrontation Front which has shouldered the task of halting the deterioration in the pan Arab stand and confronting the imperialist conspiracies following the Camp David agreements and the As-Sadat regime's treason of leaving the Arab nation and allying itself with the Zionist enemy against the Arab nation. Their membership in this front, other relations which bind them and their status as progressive regimes having the same trends in popular democracy and in social change provide a starting point for unity based on a suitable ideological, political and popular atmosphere.

4) Syria, in the Arab east, and Libya, in the Arab Maghreb--with what they represent in their steadfastness against imperialist and Zionist designs and in calling to establish a merger between them--represent the will of the Arab nation in rejecting isolation between the eastern and western parts of the homeland. This also expresses their determination that the usurpation of the Arab homeland's heart--Palestine--and the establishment of the alliance between the Zionist enemy and the capitulatory and traitorous Egyptian regime will not thwart the Arab nation's will to unite.

And taking into consideration the current political situation and imperialist and Zionist conspiracies against the Arab nation, the state of delusion in the Arab official stand, the need to heighten the popular struggle and sharpen pan-Arab official zeal, the importance of achieving unity steps to create a state which will be a nucleus for Arab unity, and the fact that this state to which we aspire will be our nation's response to all secessionist setbacks experienced by our former unity attempts and that it will constitute a new qualitative step in the Arab region and will increase the masses' enthusiasms and Arab strugglers' optimism and move Arab liberation forces to advanced positions to attack the imperialist-Zionist-reactionary onslaught, and because this nucleus of a state will be a creative revolutionary action felt by the Arab citizen inside and outside this state as a cultural, political and economic status quo wherein the noble aim merges with the life of our toiling Arab masses--taking into consideration all this and the higher pan-Arab interest and in expression of the conscience of our Arab masses from the ocean to the gulf and in implementation of Ba'th Party goals, the joint meeting of the national and regional commands greets the pan-Arab and historic appeal of brother Col Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi.

They warmly welcome this appeal and express their complete agreement with it. They stress that the party and its revolution in Syria, under the leadership of Comrade Hafiz al-Asad, secretary general of the party and president of the republic, will immediately and seriously struggle with their brothers, the leaders of 1 September revolution, and with our Arab people in the two fraternal countries to establish the nucleus unity state. Thus we will be faithful to the nation's goals and interests and faithful to those who gave their lives in establishing our goals of unity, freedom and socialism.

PRIME MINISTER, DELEGATION RETURN FROM TRIPOLI

JN022130 Damascus SANA in Arabic 1950 GMT 2 Sep 80

[Text] Damascus, 2 Sep (SANA)--Prime Minister Dr 'Abd ar-Ra'uf al-Kasm, Information Minister Ahmad Iskandar Ahmad and State Minister Ahmad Salim Darwish returned to Damascus tonight following a 3-day visit to Libya.

While there, Dr al-Kasm and his delegation took part in yesterday's Libyan Jamahiriyah's celebrations marking the 11th anniversary of the September revolution.

ROMANIA'S OPREA, DELEGATION DEPART AFTER TALKS 29 AUG

JN291653 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1615 GMT 29 Aug 80

[Text] Damascus--Gheorghe Oprea, first deputy prime minister of the Socialist Republic of Romania, left Damascus for home this morning with his accompanying delegation following a 4-day visit to the country. While here, Oprea handed a written message to President al-Asad from His Excellency Romanian President Nicolae Ceausescu.

Speaking to a SANA correspondent, Oprea expressed his delight at visiting Syria and his satisfaction with the outcome of talks with 'Abd al-Qadir Qaddura and other ministers on implementation of Romanian projects in Syria. He added: Together with the Syrian Arab side, we have drawn up practical plans and a fixed timetable for accelerating the work on these projects, in order to secure their operation before the end of the fourth 5-year development plan, which is due before the end of this year.

Oprea stressed that the relations of friendship and cooperation between our two countries and peoples will continue to develop and flourish, in the interests of the two friendly peoples.

A bilateral agreement for economic, industrial, and scientific cooperation was signed today.

FOREIGN MINISTER KHADDAM LEAVES FOR ROMANIA 1 SEP

JN010946 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 0915 GMT 1 Sep 80

[Text] Damascus--'Abd al-Halim Khaddam, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, left Damascus for Bucharest this morning, leading an official delegation on a 3-day visit to Romania.

Returns 2 Sep

JN030621 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 0415 GMT 3 Sep 80

[Text] Damascus--'Abd al-Halim Khaddam, deputy prime minister and minister of foreign affairs, returned to Damascus from Bucharest yesterday evening with his accompanying delegation.

Yesterday, Tuesday, Romanian President Nicolae Ceausescu received 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam, deputy prime minister and minister of foreign affairs. The meeting was attended by Romanian Foreign Minister Stefan Andrei and Syrian Ambassador to Romania Walid al-Mu'allim.

The two sides expressed satisfaction with the relations of friendship and cooperation that exist between the two friendly countries and peoples. They stressed the need to consolidate and develop bilateral political and economic relations, in harmony with the two countries' spirit of mutual understanding.

The two sides devoted special attention to discussing the latest Middle East developments and stressed the need for further efforts in seeking an international political settlement in the area that will establish a just and lasting peace, based on Israel's withdrawal from the Arab territories it occupied in 1967, including Arab Jerusalem, and on a just solution to the Palestinian people's problem, through establishment of their independent state on their national soil.

The two sides expressed anxiety over the Zionist entity's measures to establish new settlements in the occupied Arab territories, particularly its oppressive measures against the Palestinian Arab citizens and its arbitrary decision to declare Arab Jerusalem its unified capital.

IRAQ REPORTEDLY IMPEDING ENTRY OF SYRIAN NATIONALS

JN180545 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 0415 GMT 28 Aug 80

[Text] For the past 10 days, the Iraqi authorities have been impeding the entry of Syrian citizens into Iraq. SANA reports that contrary to current agreements between th two countries, the Iraqi authorities are sending back Syrian citizens from the border points and refusing to accept identity cards, demanding passports instead.

ALGERIA

ALGERIA, ZIMBABWE ESTABLISH DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS

LD311524 Algiers Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 31 Aug 80

[Text] A communique from the Foreign Ministry says that Algeria and Zimbabwe have decided to establish diplomatic relations, with the aim of strengthening and furthering the ties of friendship, solidarity and cooperation existing between the Algerian and Zimbabwean peoples. The same source says that this decision has come in the wake of an exchange of letters between the foreign ministers of Algeria and the Republic of Zimbabwe.

LIBYA

JALLUD EXPOUNDS ON AL-QADHDHAFI 1 SEP SPEECH

LD021802 Tripoli Domestic Service in Arabic 1313 GMT 2 Sep 80

[Speech by Maj 'Abd as-Salam Ahmad Jallud, member of the general secretariat of the General People's Congress, at the People's Palace, Tripoli--live]

[Excerpts] Brothers, the speech of Brother al-Qadhdhafi heralds the beginning of an offensive phase by the unionist forces, the pan-Arab forces. The speech places the unionist forces in Libya and the rest of the Arab homeland from the gulf to the Atlantic in a new phase in which the unionist forces will be able to derive from it a formula for action. From this historic speech, the masses begin a new phase as a unionist sweeping tide.

The speech, like previous speeches on the 10th and other anniversaries of the revolution which marked the commencement of social transformation in Libya, represents the beginning of a nationalist transformation phase, not only for the Libyan people, but for the whole Arab nation. This historic speech is a guideline for all unionist and nationalist Arabs. It expresses the conscience of every Arab. The speech places us, we unionists, before new tasks. It arouses us from the phase of inaction and deadly stagnation into a phase for influencing Arab reality.

Let me say, brothers, that before the speech the unionists in Libya, apart from the changes which occurred in the country, had no role. But the speech has now given them a full role. It has restored to them their role, to be played with honor and dignity in the revolutionary pan-Arab unionist movement.

Free and revolutionary brothers, we unionists consider faith in unity as the yardstick for judging any revolutionary Arab. We regard any revolutionary, no matter how progressive, as reactionary, if he believes in regionalism. The time has come, brothers, for the Libyan people and the unionist progressive revolutionary forces to move from the phase of just proclaiming unity to putting it into effect through earnest action and serious decisions, as proposed by the brother colonel in his speech last night.

Brothers, for anyone wishing to liberate Palestine, his road there is the road of Arab unity. For anyone who seeks freedom for the masses and wishes to ensure this freedom, the road to liberation of the masses from their internal or external enemies goes through Arab unity.

For anyone who wants to preserve Arab dignity and desires political, economic and military power for the Arab nation, his road to this is through unity. There is no other road. In fact, any other road is unacceptable and is based on falsehood, lies and hypocrisy. Unity is the road to a strong and unvulnerable Arab nation. It regains Islamic glory. If anyone wants religion to play its role in mankind and is jealous for Islam, then unity is his road there. To the Arab masses, unity means life, and separatism means slow death. This is a fact.

The realization of unity between Libya and Syria does not stop at the unity of the two peoples, changing the equation, defeating treason and reactionaries or wresting the initiative from the reactionary, Zionist, opportunist and imperialist forces. It is intended to create a unionist revolutionary progressive tide sweeping the Arabs and Arab land from the gulf to the Atlantic--a tide of unionist action. [At this point Jallud joins the crowd in chanting "Syrians and Libyans in unity"]

Brothers, all conditions are ready for the unity of the Libyan and Syrian peoples. How? Because both peoples are proud of their honor and Arabism and each of them has a creditable history. When the Arabs say Syria is the throbbing heart of Arabdom, this is not by way of courtesty to Syria. It is proved in the history of Syrian national struggle. When the Libyan people waged the struggle against the Italian fascists, they did not do so only in defense of Libya and Libyans but of Islam, religion and Arab nationalism. Therefore, beside being two revolutionary progressive regimes, the two countries have a common ground based on situation, historical, struggle and material factors and their attitudes toward the enemy. This constitutes a solid ground for the establishment of a real unity which can shoulder the responsibility and task of liberating Palestine, of raising high the banner of Islam, freeing Arab land from the gulf to the Atlantic and achieving socialism.

SYRIAN PRIME MINISTER AL-KASM COMMENTS ON UNITY

JN022045 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1915 GMT 2 Sep 80

[Text] Tripoli--Prime Minister Dr 'Abd ar-Ra'uf al-Kasm, Information Minister Ahmad Iskandar Ahmad and Minister of State Ahmad Salim Darwish left Tripoli this afternoon on their way back to Damascus after having participated in the celebrations marking the 11th anniversary of the 1 September revolution in Libya.

The Syrian delegation was seen off at Tripoli airport by Jadallah 'Azzuz at-Talkhi, secretary of the general people's committee; the secretaries of the people's committees in Libya; 'Ali al-Hasan, head of the Syrian relations office in Tripoli; and members of [words indistinct].

In a predeparture statement to journalists, Dr al-Kasm expressed hope that the unity of the two fraternal countries, Syria and the Libyan Jamahiriyah, will be achieved.

Dr al-Kasm said: Syria has frequently asserted that no objective is greater than Arab unity. Today Syria's revolutionaries meet with Libya's revolutionaries for the attainment of this dear objective. The prime minister added: 1 September was actually 2 days; the day of 1 September and day of Arab unity, whose banner, we hope, will be hoisted very soon.

Prime Minister Dr'Abd ar-Ra'uf al-Kasm had received at his residence this morning Dr Jadallah 'Azzuz at-Talhi, secretary of the general people's committee in the Libyan Jamahiriyah.

The meeting was attended by Information Minister Ahmad Iskandar Ahmad and State Minister Ahmad Salim Darwish. Dr 'Ali 'Abd as-Salam at-Turayki, secretary of Libyan foreign affairs; the head of the Syrian relations office in Tripoli; and the director of foreign affairs at the general people's committee secretariat attended part of the meeting.

The talks dealt with the intimate relations between the two fraternal countries as well as the future of the unionist action between them.

TUNISIA

ITALIAN FOREIGN MINISTER MEETS TUNISIAN LEADERS

LD012324 Rome Domestic Service in Italian 2030 GMT 1 Sep 80

[Text] Italy and Tunisia have decided--bearing in mind the points of tension existing in the Mediterranean, the grave Middle East problem and the Cyprus question up to and including the dispute between Malta and Libya in which the oil drilling platform Saipem-2 found itself indirectly involved--to increase their collaboration on the political level.

From now on, in order to contribute to the solution of these problems on which the positions of the two countries are very close, the Italian and Tunisian foreign ministers will have consultations every 6 months.

This decision was taken in Tunis today during the talks between Foreign Minister Colombo and Tunisia's leaders--President Bourguiba, Prime Minister Mzali and Foreign Minister Belkhoja. Their talks brought out--as Colombo himself told journalists at the end--the intense friendship that unites the two countries. They have consequently decided, on such a basis, to equip themselves with the means for more concrete cooperation, not only in general political problems, but also those of a bilateral nature.

Communique Issued

LD021800 Tunis TAP in English 1418 GMT 2 Sep 80

["Pool" item]

[Text] Tunis, 2 Sep (TAP)--Following the visit of the Italian Foreign Minister Mr Emilio Colombo to Tunisia, a Tunisian-Italian joint communique was published this morning.

Mr Emilio Colombo paid August 31-Sept 2, 1980 an official visit to Tunisia at the invitation of Tunisia's Foreign Minister Mr Hassan Belkhodja.

Bilateral Relations

In the course of talks which took place in an atmosphere of friendship and mutual understanding, the two parties exchanged views on bilateral relations and on means liable to develop them. They also agreed on increasing the Italian participation in the Tunisian development as part of the (?joint) plan--they also agreed on the promotion of an industrial cooperation between the two countries, therefore favouring the transfer of technology.

An ad hoc committee will shortly meet in order to study the bilateral financial cooperation, its modalities and conditions. The two parties moreover decided that a group of experts will meet in the course of October 1980 in order to discuss new cooperation basis in matters of fishing between the two parties.

The parties furthermore examined the problems of Tunisian nationals in Italy and those of Italian nationals in Tunisia and agreed in this respect to hold negotiations as soon as possible with a view to reaching an agreement on social security as well as a convention on manpower. The great joint commission created in 1979 will meet in order to examine the results of the works of the above-mentioned committees and adopt adequate decisions at the beginning of 1981 in Rome.

Furthermore the two parties carefully studied Tunisia's relations with EEC and agreed on the necessity to take efficient actions with a view to allowing the Tunisian agricultural and industrial products to have a better turnover on the common market. The two parties also deemed it very important to take into account Tunisia's interests in the course of negotiations on the enlargement of the European Economic Community.

Mediterranean

Regarding the Mediterranean, the two parties laid a special concern to maintaining stability and security in this region. They underlined, in this respect that security and cooperation in the Mediterranean are closely linked with those of Europe. That is why both partners considered that it is necessary to continue the dialogue among the participants in the security conference and cooperation between the West and Mediterranean countries not members of the Helsinki final act.

The two delegation thus expressed the wish that non-Western Mediterranean countries will play a leading part in the coming Madrid meeting. They also decided to let Tunisia and Italy jointly act at the bilateral and multinational levels to combat pollution over the Mediterranean.

Middle East

Examining particularly [words indistinct] both ministers reaffirmed the need to find out an overall settlement of it, taking into account all the data of the problem, acknowledging the Palestinian people's legitimate right to self-determination and requiring Israel's withdrawal from the 1967 occupied Arab territories, namely Jerusalem, in line with the UN relevant resolutions. They disapproved all unilateral moves aiming at altering Jerusalem status and both sides stress that the Palestinian matter which is the essence of the Near East crisis should be settled with the PLO participation in the negotiations.

Euro-Arab Talks

Finally, the two parties emphasized the importance of the Euro-Arab talks, expressing the desire that this model of regional cooperation will continue in its all aspects including the political one. They deemed them to increase the contacts between Italy and Tunisia so that to give the dialogue a new impetus.

WESTERN SAHARA

BURUNDI, SDAR ESTABLISH DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS

LD012322 Algiers Domestic Service in French 2200 GMT 1 Sep 80

[Text] Western Sahara--Burundi and the Saharan Democratic Arab Republic have agreed to establish diplomatic relations at ambassadorial level in their common wish to strengthen the ties of friendship between the two peoples. This decision has been announced following the visit to the capital of Burundi by Mr (Chadli Mohamed), Saharan (?commissioner) of [word indistinct].

CONTINUED REPORTAGE, COMMENT ON VISIT OF U.S. ENVOY LINOWITZ

Linowitz Meets With Autonomy Team

TA021132 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1100 GMT 2 Sep 80

[Text] The special U.S. ambassador to the autonomy talks, Sol Linowitz, met with the ministerial team on autonomy at noon. Our political correspondent reported that Mr Linowitz submitted a document to the team which is a kind of agreement on substantial autonomy issues. In his opinion, Israel's approval of this document could serve as a basis for the continuation of the talks.

Our correspondent added that the ambassador asked that the continued talks with Egypt included a discussion of the responsibility for defense in the self-administered areas, the distribution of water between Israel and the Arab residents of the territories and the final status of the settlements in the territories. In Linowitz' opinion, Israel should evince sensitivity in its moves in the territories. He asked Israel not to transfer the prime minister's office to East Jerusalem and not to apply Israeli law to the Golan Heights.

Our correspondent reports that the Israeli team was not willing to make any concession on the autonomy issue. Nor was it willing to pay a price for the sake of Egypt's return to the talks, the key to the resumption of which is in Egypt's hands. All the ministers our correspondent talked to after the meeting told him the talk was frank and excellent. After this meeting, Mr Linowitz will meet for a concluding talk with the prime minister.

Report on Team Meeting

TA021322 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1300 GMT 2 Sep 80

[Text] The working luncheon of the ministerial team on the autonomy talks with Ambassador Linowitz ended a short time ago in Jerusalem. Israeli and U.S. sources said that the meeting had been positive and good. A U.S. source at the talks confirmed to our correspondent that earlier, at noon, Ambassador Linowitz submitted a document to the ministerial team summing up the achievements made in the talks to date. The U.S. source said that this document could serve as the key for their resumption.

Our correspondent reports that during the lucheon with Mr Linowitz Foreign Minister Yitzhaq Shamir said that Israel was ready to make an effort to resume the talks. However, Egypt was the one that had suspended them and the United States should compel Egypt to suspend the suspension. [as heard]

Mr Linowitz asked Israel to proceed with its moves in the territories in a sensible manner. He requested that the prime minister's office not be moved to East Jerusalem and that Israeli law not be imposed on the Golan Heights. However, the Israeli team was not prepared to make any concessions on the autonomy issue as the price for Egypt's returning to the talks. In contrast, a U.S. senior source at the autonomy talks said that Israel was considering making a gesture to Egypt to show that it was aware of Egypt's concern in the wake of the passage of the Jerusalem law. Apparently, that would involve the release of Palestinian prisoners and other similar gestures.

Begin, Linowitz Prepare As-Sadat Message

TA021716 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1700 GMT 2 Sep 80

[Text] Tomorrow U.S. Ambassador Sol Linowitz will present the Egyptian president a document agreed upon during the conversation he held this afternoon with Prime Minister Menahem Begin.

This was announced by Mr Begin at the end of the meeting. He refused to give details. Linowitz himself expressed the hope that progress would be made in the autonomy talks, but said he would only know this for sure after his meeting with As-Sadat tomorrow.

At the end of his meeting with Mr Begin, Linowitz said that he was pleased with it and that it was a very good talk. He noted that the meeting enabled each party to exchange views in light of previous talks with Mr Begin and the Israeli representative. In response to a question by our correspondent, Dan Eshel, Linowitz said that it has been agreed that certain steps will be undertaken to improve the atmosphere. He refused to elaborate. He emphasized that these steps will relate to both parties' suggestions.

Begin Comments on Linowitz Talks

TA021736 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 1700 GMT 2 Sep 80

[Excerpt] A few moments ago Prime Minister Begin was asked after the meeting whether Israel has made any concessions during the Linowitz mission and this was his reply: [begin recording]

[Begin] If you ask me whether Israel made--or it was suggested that it make--any concessions, so-called, in order to convince the Egyptian Government to resume the talks, the answer is "no." We were not obliged, we are not obliged, to make such concessions and we did not make them because the Egyptian Government suspended the talks and the Egyptian Government should agree to resume them.

What we suggest is that the talks should be resumed. President as-Sadat--and his colleagues--suggested a summit conference. I don't object to a summit conference, but a summit conference does not, must not, should not exclude the resumption of the autonomy talks. So we agree on both: the resumption of the talks and a consultation with President Carter about the possibility and the place of a summit talk. Therefore, we can speak about summit talks before 4 November--you know the date 4 November, don't you--and after 4 November, any time, we don't object. But, first of all, we must resume our talks, we should resume our talks. And, for this purpose we don't have to give any concessions. Why should we?

[Question by unidentified correspondent] But what about gestures, sir, instead of....

[Answer--interrupting] About what?

[Question by unidentified correspondent] Gestures instead of....

[Answer--interrupting] Our policy is not gesticulation, madam. This is policy.

[Question by unidentified correspondent] Ambassador Linowitz did speak about some steps that had been agreed upon tonight to improve the atmosphere. Could you comment on it, Prime Minister Begin?

[Answer] I don't have to comment. We had a very good talk tonight. We had a very good talk at the Knesset. At the Knesset we spoke for 3 hours and tonight for 2 hours. We agreed on a certain document which we will present to President as-Sadat. You understand, because President as-Sadat has not seen the document I cannot divulge the contents of it. We worked on another document which can be acceptable, I believe, to all partners. So, we hope for the best. Now, let us give a chance to Ambassador Linowitz in Cairo, in his talks with President as-Sadat and his advisers. Maybe we shall renew the talks, resume the talks.

We want an agreement, but you can never reach an agreement if talks do not take place. This is simple logic. Therefore, all the time we contend that the talks should be resumed. [end recording]

Linowitz Briefed on Settlements

TA030501 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0400 GMT 3 Sep 80

[Text] Ambassador Linowitz will go to Alexandria today, carrying with him the summation of the exchanges of opinion he had with the prime minister concerning the ways to renew the autonomy talks as well as a U.S. document containing an interim summation of the negotiations and listing achievements and points in dispute between Egypt and Israel. Israel added its comments to this document during Linowitz's Jerusalem talks.

In his talks in Israel Linowitz was told by Minister Sharon that the government intends to establish only another four settlements in the territories, thus completing a plan for the establishment of 85 settlements in Judaea and Samaria. Our political correspondent Shim'on Schiffer reports that in his talks Linowitz showed particular interest in the issue of the settlements. Some time ago Israel decided to establish another six settlements within the framework of this same plan, but Deputy Prime Minister Yadin appealed against three of them, so that the matter has not yet been resolved.

The prime minister told the U.S. emissary that Israel is interested in setting up the self-governing authority in the territories because we are not interested in having the army run the life of the residents there. An army is for defense and not for administration, Mr Begin said.

As for the suspension of the autonomy talks, the prime minister blamed Egypt for this, saying there was no justification for this. Israel is ready to continue with the negotiations, but on condition that they continue without a break.

Linowitz promised to convey to the Egyptian president Israel's sharp criticism of items in the Egyptian press against the prime minister and the government. He expressed regret that Egyptian papers had compared Begin with Hitler.

Radio Discusses Linowitz Mission

TA021729 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1600 GMT 2 Sep 80

[From the "Evening Newsreel"]

[Text] Special ambassador to the autonomy talks Sol Linowitz came to the Middle East to point out the areas of agreement common to Israel and Egypt in everything pertaining to the autonomy in the territories. After 2 days of meetings with the prime minister, the foreign minister, the chairman of the ministerial autonomy team and the other members of the team itself, Linowitz leaves Israel with distinct impressions on Israel's position. Here is a report by Shim'on Schiffer on Linowitz's talks:

In the course of his talks, Sol Linowitz tried to impart to his interlocutors the feeling of apprehension he has felt during his mission. Yesterday he said that sometimes the heart breaks when he thinks that a historic chance to advance peace can be missed, a chance that may never again recur. Linowitz came in order to try to bridge gaps, convey a feeling of security, dispel fears and ask each of the parties to show understanding for the doubts that arose in the other partner to the peace treaty.

The senior U.S. envoy's message is that there is no substitute for the Camp David accords. If the talks on the establishment of autonomy fail, proposals--mainly by European countries--will be raised. These proposals may not lead to a solution of the problems, but they may cause the Camp David accords to disappear from the political stage.

Linowitz tried to implant in the Israeli policymakers the feeling of urgency demanding an early agreement or else everything would go to the dogs. His counterparts listened and remarked. Thus, for instance, Foreign Minister Yitzhaq Shamir said that President as-Sadat may have decided to halt the negotiations and the continuation of the entire process because in his opinion after the U.S. election he would be able to score achievements and extract far-reaching concessions from Israel. Meanwhile, Shamir said, the strategic cooperation between the United States and Egypt is strengthening. Europe is supporting the Arab countries and the United States is wavering in its support for Israel. The proof is that it does not veto UN Security Council resolutions which fiercely condemn Israel; rather, it abstains.

Linowitz encountered here a feeling of disappointment and criticism of Egypt regarding its commitments stemming from the peace treaty. The prime minister and Minister Shamir emphasized that the normalization agreements are not being filled with firm content. Shamir: An atmosphere was created that does not contribute toward furthering the mutual trust between the two countries. Linowitz: In Egypt, too, there is a feeling of disappointment about the passing of the Jerusalem law by the Knesset, about the intention of transferring the prime minister's office to East Jerusalem, the continued establishment of settlements in the territories, and the application of a firm-handed policy toward the inhabitants of the territories. Yitzhaq Shamir: Israel's positions on Jerusalem and the settlements were known to Egypt when it signed the peace treaty. The only novel thing that is not being materialized is normalization. Linowitz: There is no point continuing the exchange of letters between Begin and As-Sadat; the talks should be resumed.

The U.S. envoy asked and pleaded with his interlocutors to demonstrate sensitivity toward Egypt's hardships. What shall I tell President as-Sadat when he asks me for my opinion on the Jerusalem law and the intention to enforce the Israeli law on the Golan Heights, Linowitz asked the ministerial autonomy team. Why is the attack on the prime minister continuing in the Egyptian media, the ministers asked. Is this inducive to understanding between the two countries?

Very cautiously, as though stepping through a minefield, Linowitz pulled out the rabbit: a document prepared in the United States summing up the points of agreement regarding the nature of the autonomy. In Linowitz's opinion 80 percent of the work has already been accomplished. It is necessary to reach an agreement on only 20 percent.

He asked Israel to agree to discuss the responsibility for defense in the autonomy territory, the division of resources--such as water and soil--between the self-governing bodies and Israel, the status of the settlements and the question pertaining to the right of the East Jerusalem Arabs to vote for the autonomy institutions.

Linowitz made a supreme effort to find the formula for the continuation of the talks. He is aware of the fact that this will not be done within the old framework. Linowitz is very cautious in his remarks. His associates said that the United States is seeking Israeli gestures, but Linowitz did not ask; he talked about the need to establish a good atmosphere with flexible positions. Israel replied: The continuation of the negotiations--yes; a summit--no. Also, we will not pay the price for the return of Egypt to the negotiating table.

Now Sol Linowitz is departing for Egypt, where he will try to persuade President as-Sadat to respond to President Carter's pleas and continue the negotiations toward the implementation of the autonomy. [end recording]

Linowitz Departs for Egypt

TA030809 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0800 GMT 3 Sep 80

[Text] The U.S. ambassador to the autonomy talks, Sol Linowitz, left for Egypt a short time ago; he will meet with As-Sadat today. Mr Linowitz said he will present to As-Sadat diagnoses and appraisals he heard from the prime minister and members of the Cabinet.

Mr Linowitz was seen off at Ben-Gurion Airport by the head of the Israeli team to the autonomy talks, Interior Minister Dr Yosef Burg. His assessment was that the farewell to the U.S. envoy would be a temporary one. He expressed appreication for Linowitz' work under conditions that were not easy, and wished him a happy new year in Hebrew [for the forthcoming Jewish New Year].

Mr Linowitz said that his telling As-Sadat what he had heard in Israel would be another step toward the talks' renewal. Replying to a question from our reporter Dan Eshel, Linowitz said that at this time he has no plans to return to Israel before going on to Washington, but if the need arises, he will do so.

HA'ARETZ CALLS FOR PERSONNEL CHANGES IN AUTONOMY TEAM

TA021455 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 2 Sep 80 p 5

[Shmu'el Segev commentary: "Foreign Minister, Not Interior Minister"]

[Excerpt] The autonomy talks have been held--intermittently and fruitlessly--in an atmosphere of relentless changes in Israel's and Egypt's strategic standing. Today it may be asserted without hesitation that the main defect on the Israeli side lay in the composition of the Israeli delegation. As against Egypt's functional makeup--the prime minister, the foreign and defense ministers and various advisers--Israel sent a delegation headed by Interior Minister Dr Yosef Burg, which, while it may have met coalition considerations, led to the dropout of the two key ministers, Foreign Minister Dayan and Defense Minister Weizman. Of the ministers who remained, Justice Minister Shmu'el Tamir stood out head and shoulders above the rest, largely overshadowing Dr Burg--a situation that created considerable tension and difficulties in the Israeli delegation.

Ever since Yitzhaq Shamir took over as foreign minister, he has shown no little balanced judgment and political flexibility, for which he has gained esteem inside and outside Israel. If in the past one could excuse Dr Burg's heading the Israeli delegatin to the autonomy talks by saying that Begin had no confidence in Moshe Dayan's "Palestinian intentions," this reasoning no longer holds when Yitzhaq Shamir is considered. The same will go for the new defense minister if that post is in fact filled in the coming days.

Within the framework of the new alignment, the Israeli delegation will have to be reduced. It will have to be headed by the foreign minister--who has the requisite means at his disposal--and the participation of the ministers who until now have been "extras" or who presented themselves as "watchdogs" over the interior minister will have to stop. A functional composition for the Israeli delegation, as is the case for the U.S. and Egyptian delegations, may not wipe out all the differences between Cairo and Jerusalem concerning the future solution in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip, but such a composition would certainly prevent clumsy blunders and would show Israel as seriously intending to implement the autonomy agreement it signed at Camp David.

BURG POSTPONES U.S. TRIP DUE TO LINOWITZ VISIT

TA021901 Jerusalem Domestic Television Service in Hebrew 1800 GMT 2 Sep 80

[Excerpt] Interior Minister Dr Yosef Burg has postponed his visit to the United States. He had intended to leave tomorrow for a 1-week lecture tour, but it was delayed because of the Linowitz talks. The interior minister told our correspondent the postponement of his trip has nothing to do with the police investigation of the Abu-Hatzera affair.

MINISTER LANDAU MAKES STATEMENT ON RETURN FROM U.S. VISIT

TA291229 Tel Aviv ITIM in Hebrew 1210 GMT 29 Aug 80

[Text] Ben-Gurion Airport, 29 Aug--Today, on his return from a visit to the United States, where he had gone on a bond sales mission, Transport Minister Hayim Landau said he had found the Jews of the United States united on the issue of Jerusalem.

In a talk with the ITIM correspondent at Ben-Gurion Airport the minister noted that the leadership [of the U.S. Jews] was also united around the Jerusalem issue. Now, after the U.S. abstention from voting in the Security Council, the leaders understand what the future U.S. position may also be on less important issues, he said. However, it is particularly the man-in-the-street, the ordinary Jew, who has a full understanding of Israel's firm position and supports the principle that security should be safeguarded before peace. According to Mr Landau, the U.S. administration had perhaps hoped to split the Jewish public, but found that its positions had united the entire community. This time all the Jewish organizations were united in condemning the U.S. position in the Security Council, which they called hypocrisy and a surrender to oil pressure, the transport minister said.

During his visit Mr Landau held political meetings, but he refrained from going into detail about their contents. Nor was he prepared to say exactly whom he had met. In the professional sphere, the transport minister met with the U.S. highway safety authorities and heard some new ideas on the war against road accidents which may also be implemented in Israel. Minister Landau also said that he had been occupied with the release of prisoner of Zion Yosef Mendelevitch and he expressed the hope that this would indeed bear fruit and that the man would be freed.

EGYPTIAN OFFICIAL CITED ON BEGIN'S READINESS FOR SUMMIT

TA030607 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 0400 GMT 3 Sep 80

[Text] In Cairo, an unnamed official has expressed satisfaction with reports of Prime Minister Begin's readiness to attend a tripartite summit. However, he took issue with Prime Minister Begin's assertion that such a summit should in no way exclude the resumption of the autonomy negotiations.

LAND TRAFFIC BETWEEN ISRAEL, EGYPT INCREASES OVER 2 MONTHS

TA030509 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0400 GMT 3 Sep 80

[Text] Progress has been made in the normalization of traffic between Israel and Egypt. The number of those travelling to and from Egypt via the Ne'ot Sinai station increased by about 50 percent in the past 2 months, totalling 23,000 persons. The increase came in both the number of tourists and in the number of Israelis who crossed the checkpoint. This was made known by the director of the station to our correspondent Bassam Ja'bar.

STEVENS OPENS NONALIGNED BROADCASTERS CONFERENCE IN FREETOWN

AB0211141 Freetown Domestic Service in English 0655 GMT 2 Sep 80

[Text] The second general conference of Broadcasting Organizations of Nonaligned Countries, BONAC, was yesterday opened in Freetown, Sierra Leone, by President Siaka Stevens, the current chairman of the OAU. Addressing the assembly, President Stevens (?observed) that it has become an accepted fact that communication among nations and peoples has assumed increasing importance for their well-being and survival. Even their fundamental right to communicate is often hampered by a lack of the means of communication, he said.

President Stevens noted that many subjects of the world as well as millions of people are simply receivers of information. Dr Stevens therefore reminded delegates that the conference is taking place at [word indistinct] time when the debates on world economic order are most topical. And complementary to this debate, he said, is also that of a new information order and a North-South debate on communications.

Stressing the important task of BONAC to define and implement the objectives of the new information order, President Stevens urged delegates to seek to serve the wider purpose of communication development to foster international cooperation and peace throughout the world.

In his speech, the newly elected chairman, Mr (Joseph W. Finley, Jr), who is also the director general of the mass media and leader of Sierra Leone's delegation, told delegates that their presence in Freetown is a real affirmation that nonalignment is not a slogan or some vague concept but a dynamic instrument of international cooperation. The chairman emphasized that BONAC and other nonaligned institutions have proven to the skeptics that nonaligned countries are not just (?states) and cities taking the best of both Eastern and Western blocs or partakers in the arena of international politics, but initiators and actors in the cause of international understanding and world peace.

On the task of the conference, Mr (Finley) reminded delegates that their goal is to consolidate the plans, objectives and strategies which have been identified and recommended by the committee for cooperation since Sarajevo, in Yugoslavia.

OAU'S KODJO GIVES AFRICAN VIEW OF NORTH-SOUTH DIALOGUE

AB310935 Paris AFP in English 0918 GMT 31 Aug 80

[Text] United Nations, 31 Aug (AFP)--African expects much but not all from North-South negotiations planned for 1981, Organization of African Unity General Secretary Edem Kodjo told AGENCE FRANCE PRESSE here.

Mr Kodjo, in New York for the special General Assembly economic session aimed at relaunching the stalled dialogue between rich and poor nations, stressed the need for progress towards a new world economic order.

What we expect from the North are adequate efforts that do not neutralize the efforts made by the underprivileged countries themselves, he said, adding that Africa now realised that it had to take the road towards self-oriented, endogenous development.

This idea of development from within formed the basis of the OAU Lagos declaration in April. The declaration called for an African economic community by the year 2000.

Mr. Kodjo stressed the importance of a regionalization of development efforts, a key concept in the Lagos declaration, which aims at regional self-sufficiency.

The North-South dialogue would itself be more balanced if the rich and poor countries decided to base their talks on the development of several large regional entities, he said.

Mr. Kodjo said Africa's number one priority in the negotiations will be to obtain fair and guaranteed export revenue for its raw materials.

He described energy as a very important issue for Africa, noting that the deficit experienced by the continent called for a particular effort.

But, stressing the need for greater recycling of oil-created surpluses to importing countries, he said speeches on energy development are long-term speeches.

Mr. Kodjo called for a less illusory, more stable world monetary system. Floating currencies were not the best thing in the world, we said, noting that a juster system that did not give priority to one particular currency (the dollar) was needed.

He himself envisages some form of decentralized, possibly regional, system and has called for discussions within the North-South negotiations on monetary reform.

At present, the voting rights of International Monetary Fund (IMF) member countries are based on quotas which are themselves based on the contribution each country makes to the fund.

What is needed is a framework in which something other than quotas make the law, he said.

On aid, Mr. Kodjo charged that the Industrialized countries had never fulfilled their undertakings within the framework of the U.N.'s first two development plans.

While stressing the need for Third World unity, he also branded the Group of 77 developing countries a facade. Alluding to newly-industrialized members of the 77--Brazil, South Korea, etc he noted that there was a world of difference between their interests and those of the most under-privileged countries.

Africa, which accounts for about one-third of the U.N. membership, has the most poor countries in the world.

For this reason, Mr. Kodjo believes that the OAU Lagos declaration and the principles embodied in it are particularly important.

The ideas behind the declaration, in particular the idea of regional economic development, should both be highlighted in the forthcoming negotiations, he said.

ETHIOPIA

FRIENDSHIP AGREEMENT SIGNED WITH PDRY

LD021850 Addis Ababa Domestic Service in Amharic 1700 GMT 2 Sep 80 EA

[Text] Documents ratifying the friendship agreement signed last November between socialist Ethiopia and the PDRY were exchanged between the two countries today. The ceremony of exchanging the documents was held at the assembly hall of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. The documents were exchanged between Comrade Dr Feleke Gedle-Giorgis, foreign minister of socialist Ethiopia and member of the Central Committee of the Commission of Organizing the Party of Workers of Ethiopia [COPWE] and Comrade Muhammad 'Abd Allan al-Batani, PDRY ambassador to socialist Ethiopia.

The two countries, which are linked by blood, signed the friendship and cooperation agreement, which contains 19 articles, during the visit of Comrade Chairman Mengistu Haile Mariam, chairman of the Provisional Military Administrative Council [PMAC] and COPWE and commander in chief of the Revolutionary Army of socialist Ethiopia, to the PDRY last November.

Speaking at the ceremony, Comrade Dr Feleke Gedle-Giorgis said that the two revolutionary countries are determined to strengthen further their joint stance in view of the encroachment of U.S. imperialism in the Red Sea, the Persian Gulf and other areas, which is directed against Ethiopia, the PDRY and other progressive countries. He said that the two countries have exchanged the documents ratifying the friendship and cooperation agreement at a time when U.S. imperialism and the expansionist Mogadishu regime have created a situation dangerous to the peace and existence of Ethiopia and the PDRY and other countries in the region by the recent signing of a military agreement.

Comrade Dr Feleke went on to say that U.S. imperialism and the Mogadishu ruling clique, which is obsessed with territorial expansion, are directing their threat against the revolutions of Ethiopia and the PDRY in violation of the OAU and the UN charters, adding that the threat directed against us today would also be directed against any African, Middle Eastern and Persian Gulf country which defied the domination of imperialists.

He added that the threat would without doubt be directed against progressive countries in these regions which are struggling for freedom, equality, justice and peace. Comrade Dr Feleke said that the two friendly countries will never bow to imperialism, adding not only will they never change their resolute stance but that they will also further establish a joint front against their common enemies, the puppets of international imperialism.

Replying to Dr Feleke, Comrade Ambassador al-Batani said that the relations between the peoples and revolutions of Ethiopia and the PDRY are historic and firm, adding that the relations between the two countries are based on the documents ratifying the friendship and cooperation agreement signed between them. The comrade ambassador said that the visit made last November by Comrade Chairman Mengistu Haile Mariam to Democratic Yemen opened a new historic chapter in the relations between socialist Ethiopia and Democratic Yemen. He reaffirmed that the Ethiopian revolution and the PDRY revolution, straddling the Red Sea, will fight their common enemy, international imperialism.

Comrade Ambassador al-Batani said that U.S. imperialism will never frighten the two friendly countries, adding that the aim of the maneuvers of U.S. imperialism in the region is to hinder the progress of the revolutions of the two countries. He said that since our two countries depend on their revolutions and their peoples, they will emerge victorious. He said that the two countries have socialist and progressive countries as backers for their revolutions.

Concluding his speech, Comrade Ambassador al-Batani expressed his firm belief that the relations between the two countries will be further developed and strengthened. He reaffirmed that the revolution of the PDRY will always side with the revolution of socialist Ethiopia.

SOMALIA

BARRE CALLS FOR PEACEFUL SOLUTIONS, WARNS OF FOREIGN INFLUENCE

LD022145 Mogadishu Domestic Service in Somali 1850 GMT 2 Sep 80 EA

[Summary] President Siad Barre made a speech today in Uamo, Lower Buba. "Turning to the cheap propaganda of the Addis Ababa regime and its collaborators who have recently made it their business to interfere in the private affairs of the Somali Democratic Republic, he said it remains to be seen whether Somalia's dealings with the rest of the world [words indistinct]. President of the Somali Democratic Republic Challe Mohamed Siad Barre said: Let us assume that we do as the Addis Ababa regime wishes us to do, but before that it is relevant to ask whether that regime is free and can give its own independent decision. We say no. And we have an adage to the effect that everyone is blind to his own errors but is quick to point out the errors of others".

"The Somali Democratic Republic, in all its dealings with governments, has no intention of harming any third country. Speaking on the Horn of Africa problem, the president said that the Somali Democratic Republic is ready to work for a peaceful solution based on justice, and added that all the people in the Horn of Africa, in the Red Sea and Indian Ocean region could serve their interests by solving their problems peacefully, and that they should jointly be aware of foreign powers who wish to perpetuate the problem. To achieve this, some governments in this area should first desist from spreading cheap propaganda and from unprovoked attacks on their neighbors."

UGANDA

DEMOCRATIC PARTY CHARGES ELECTION INTENTIONALLY DELAYED

LD021923 Nairobi Domestic Service in English 1600 GMT 2 Sep 80 EA

[Text] In Kampala the Democratic Party today accused the ruling Military Commission of dragging its feet in preparing for the elections initially promised for the end of this month.

A statement by the Democratic Party general secretary, Francis Bwengye, said that the party believed that as a result the elections could be delayed by at least a month. He said that postponement of the elections had been caused by the government's delay in importing appropriate equipment and materials. He also blamed the electoral commission for taking too long to appoint and train registration officials.

The Military Commission's chairman, Paulo Muwanga, at a press conference last week said that election arrangements were in the hands of the electoral commission and that any change of date will be announced by the same commission.

CHAD

MINISTER CHARGES EGYPT, OTHERS AID HISSEIN HABRE REVOLT

LD291448 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 0700 GMT 29 Aug 80

[Text] Tripoli, 29 Aug (JANA)--Chad Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Acyl Ahamet has said that colonialist forces with all their resources, led by the fascist regimes in Egypt, Morocco, Sudan and Senegal, are behind Hissein Habre's rebellion, since these regimes are providing the rebel Hissein Habre with unlimited weapons and ammunition to fan the flames of sedition, bring down the lawful national government and put Chad under colonialist domination again. This is what the rebel Habre is seeking.

At a press conference he held last night at Libya's Palace Hotel in Tripoli, attended by Arab and world news agency correspondents, the Chad foreign minister disclosed that there are bases belonging to the Egyptian agent regime in the town of Abeche. This regime sends military supplies to the rebel Habre through these bases and through his military coordinators in this region.

The Chad foreign minister announced that the Chad national government rejects the internationalization of the present events in Chad, stressing that this would create problems for Chad. This is what colonialism is seeking, so that it can return to Chad on an international level.

The Chad foreign minister informed the reporters of the refusal of the lawful national government in Chad to enter into further negotiations with the rebel Hissein Habre after he had violated all the agreements concluded with him in the past.

The Chad foreign minister urged all states which cherish peace to stand by and help the Chadian people. He said that the rebel Hissein Habre was working to kindle sectarianism and sedition among Chadian compatriots.

At the end of his press conference, Acyl Ahamet praised the stands of the Libyan Arab people toward the Chadian people and their aid in extricating Chad from its current tragic situation.

ZAIRE

PREPARATIONS UNDERWAY TO REPATRIATE REFUGEES IN ANGOLA

AB301300 Kinshasa AZAP in French 0650 GMT 30 Aug 80

[Excerpts] Kinshasa, 30 Aug (AZAP)--The founding chairman of the MPR has received the Angolan charge d'affaires, who conveyed a message to him from the Angolan head of state, Mr Jose Eduardo dos Santos. The audience was purely a protocol one.

The Angolan diplomat has just returned from a trip to Luanda which coincided with important events in Angolan internal affairs. The principle of good neighborliness adopted by our countries precludes and condemns interference in the internal affairs of each other's country. But at the same time, since the normalization of our relations with our neighbor to the south, a dialogue has been established aimed at freely informing one another of important decision.

That is also why the message conveyed by the Angolan charge d'affaires to the founding chairman of the MPR, far from being only a consular formality, takes on quite a special form in reality, even if the contents of the message were not disclosed. Already we are informed that feverish preparations for the repatriation of Zairian refugees are going on, and the same is true for Angolan refugees in our country. There is no doubt that these voluntary migrations will bring a happy conclusion which will bring general relief in future relations between our countries.

CAPE VERDE

MAURITANIAN FOREIGN AFFAIRS MINISTER ENDS VISIT

AB291841 Paris AFP in French 1559 GMT 29 Aug 80

[Text] Praia, 29 Aug (AFP)--Mauritania and Cape Verde have decided to set up a joint commission for cooperation. This decision was taken at the end of a meeting in Praia between the ministers of foreign affairs of Mauritania, Mr Ould Zamel, and of Cape Verde, Mr Abilio Duarte. The two ministers stated that their decision will strengthen cooperation between Mauritania and Cape Verde. They also decided to intensify their conracts for application of trade and maritime accords signed between Cape Verde and Mauritania in February 1978.

In a communique published at the end of the Mauritanian minister's visit, Cape Verde and Mauritania strongly condemn Israel's decision to make Jerusalem its capital, and express their solidarity with the Palestinian people and Arab countries who are fighting against Zionism.

The two countries stress the need for all the parties involved in the Saharan problem to cooperate loyally with the OAU committee of wise men for the application of the decisions and recommendations of the organization. Finally, they express their solidarity with and their support for the frontline countries, especially Angola, a victim of South African aggression, the communique concludes.

GABON

CONGO PRESIDENT REPORTS ON DISCUSSIONS WITH BONGO

AB021709 Libreville Domestic Service in French 0600 GMT 2 Sep 80

[Summary] Relations between Gabon and the Congo are excellent. This can be deduced from the statements made yesterday evening by the presidents of both countries, Omar Bongo and Sassou-N'guesso, at the end of the latter's visit to the Gabonese province of Haut-Ogooe. The two heads of state, who spent the weekend together at (Likoumou), President Bongo's birthplace 111 kilometers from Franceville, exchanged views in an atmosphere of satisfaction and brotherhood. The two heads of state expressed their desire to considerably strengthen the cooperation between the Congo and Gabon. They also discussed the need to strengthen the Central African Customs and Economic Union, UDEAC, which will hold a meeting in Brazzaville in the Congo toward the end of this year in order to intensify this cooperation.

In a statement to the press before his departure, President Sassou-N'guesso said:

[Begin recording] On behalf of my wife and of the delegation accompanying me as well as in my own name, I would like to express very sincere thanks to my brother President Bongo and Mrs Bongo for the fraternal and even intimate reception accorded us here. This was a friendly meeting during which we did not fail to discuss the problem of cooperation between our two states as well as problems concerning Africa. On the whole, I can say that this was a fraternal meeting.

[Question] I would like to know the African problems you discussed.

[Answer] You know, for example, that the brotherly people of Chad have been involved in a conflict for some time now. Two heads of state from Central Africa cannot meet without exchanging views on this dramatic problem.

[Question] Mr President, I remember that President Mobutu of Zaire has suggested that the Central African countries should organize themselves like those in West Africa. What do you think about this idea?

[Answer] The recent Lagos economic conference called for the creation of economic groupings in western, central, eastern and southern Africa. This was the African economic development strategy adopted in Lagos. We should try to create such a vast economic grouping in our region also.

LIBERIA

BUDGET FOR FISCAL YEAR 1980-1981 APPROVED

AB020940 Monrovia Radio ELWA in English 0655 GMT 2 Sep 80

[Text] The government of the People's Redemption Council [PRC], under decree No 15, has approved $372.5 million budget for the fiscal year 1980-1981. The budget provides for a projected revenue of $251.8 million and a minimum recurrent expenditure of $246.5 million, including $42.2 million for debt servicing. The budget also provides for a development outlay of $126 million, including $75 million for external funding. In his first budget message to the PRC, head of state Master Sergeant Doe said government had managed to restrain its original recurrent expenditure to the barest minimum. However, he said a number of completed development projects totaling $16 million had been transferred to the recurrent budget.

Master Sergeant Doe said that in the spirit of the revolution, certain increases amounting to $33.8 million here made in the salaries of all sectors of military and paramilitary personnel, and the minimum wage of civil servants was raised to $2,400 per year. This year's budget, which is about 20 percent over fiscal 1979-1980, provides $132.7 million for personal services, which is $36.5 million over that of the last fiscal year because funding of the new budget would be done through taxation, external assistance and loans.

Head of state Doe said government has proposed new tax measures for implementation this year. He said this means that income tax rate on individuals, stocks, estates and partnerships had been increased by 2, 6, 10 and 20 percent, thereby making the rate more progressive. The hut, progress and development tax paid by hut dwellers in Liberia has been abolished under the new tax measures announced by the PRC Government. Disclosing this in his first budget message, head of state Doe said that the step was necessary to further ease the burden of taxation on the Liberian people. He also said that the new tax measures would produce an additional revenue of $54 million, while the sale of assets would yield $6 million. He added that the new tax on petroleum would generate $2.7 million for government.

In another development, the PRC Government has authorized the minister of finance to pay the expenses of the government from 1 July 1980 to 30 June 1981 under the approved budget of fiscal 1980-81. According to decree number 15 issued in Monrovia yesterday, such expenses include approved allotments, personnel lists, notices and warrants of the head of state. On the budgetary transfers, this decree authorized the Ministry of Finance to approve such transfers upon recommendation of the director of the budget as may be necessary to give priority to the more essential [word indistinct] of government operations. However, the decree said such transfers shall not exceed the sum total of the budget. The decree, which takes effect immediately, said all equipment and supplies shall be procured by the General Services Agency for and on behalf of all branches of government, ministries and other agencies. This is notwithstanding provisions of forms for purchase of equipment and other supplies in the budgets of the various ministries and agencies of government, the decree said.

NIGERIA

GOVERNMENT ISSUES WHITE PAPER ON REVENUE ALLOCATION

AB020855 Lagos Domestic Service in English 0600 GMT 2 Sep 80

[Text] The Federal Government has published a white paper on the recommendations of a commission set up to look into the issues of revenue allocations in the country. It says that 55 percent of the nation's revenue will go into the federal (?purse), while 30 percent will be shared out among the states. The local governments will receive 8 percent. while 7 percent will be reserved as a special fund.

Under the special fund, a priority share of 3.5 percent will be allocated to producing areas. The paper explained that in reaching these decisions the government took into account the need for adequate care for mineral producing areas as well as the need to ensure that the federal capital territory takes off according to schedule.

The government, however, rejected the panel's interpretation of the constitution on the ownership of land, saying that having accepted the principle of derivations, there was no need for such recommendations. It accepted the view of the special fund but added that the distinction between onshore and offshore production is of little or no significance.

The (Okigbo) revenue allocation commission was set up last year after the assumption of office by the present administration.

SIERRA LEONE

VICE PRESIDENT RECEIVES DPRK DELEGATION

AB022138 Freetown Domestic Service in English 2000 GMT 2 Sep 80

[Text] Speaking to a three-man delegation from the Central Committee of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, DPRK, the first vice president, Mr S.I. Koroma, acclaimed the significant role the DPRK has been playing in Sierra Leone. Mr Koroma informed the visiting DPRK delegation, which paid a courtesy call on him this afternoon, that their country has left an indelible impression on the minds of Sierra Leoneans.

First Vice President Koroma added that the delegation's visit to Sierra Leone has further strengthened the relations between the two countries. On the reunification of the two Koreas the first vice president reaffirmed Sierra Leone's support and looked forward to the day when both countries will peacefully come together as one country.

Speaking to the vice president earlier, the leader of the delegation, Mr (Hyon Hyung-chu), expressed satisfaction at the successes and achievements Sierra Leone has made over the years and noted that although the two countries are far apart yet they have a common struggle in insuring the independence of their peoples. He said that although the struggle of the North Korean people is being suppressed by some people in the world, yet Sierra Leone has always stood by their side, and expressed profound gratitude to the government and people of Sierra Leone.

MADAGASCAR

JI PENGFEI LEAVES FOR MAURITIUS AFTER 5-DAY VISIT

Speech at Banquet

AB301340 Paris AFP in French 1126 GMT 30 Aug 80

[Text] Antananarivo, 30 Aug (AFP)--Political movements in the Indian Ocean are closely related to those in southern Asia and in the Middle East, the Chinese deputy prime minister, Mr Ji Pengfei, noted.

Without referring to any world power, Mr Ji Pengfei, who was the guest of honor at a banquet offered by the Malagasy prime minister, Mr Rakotoarijaona, recalled that the year 1980 saw moments of brutal interference in the internal affairs of other countries. He stressed his conviction that if peace-loving countries joined their efforts to hold all acts of aggression at bay, they could possibly achieve lasting peace.

Mr Ji Pengfei said this in response to a statement by the Malagasy prime minister reiterating his country's hope of once more seeing the Indian Ocean become a demilitarized and non-nuclear zone of peace.

The Chinese vice premier has been on an official visit to Madagascar for two days, accompanied by an 18-member delegation.

Meeting with Ratsiraka, Departure

AB031054 Paris AFP in English 1019 GMT 3 Sep 80

[Text] Antananarivo, 3 Sep (AFP)--Chinese Deputy Premier Ji Pengfei today left here for the Indian Ocean island of Mauritius, the 4th leg on a 10-nation tour of Africa, the Indian Ocean and the Middle East.

Mr Ji, who spent five days here, had talks yesterday with Malagasy President Didier Ratsiraka, who had returned a few hours earlier from visits to France and the Soviet Union.

Mr Ratsiraka, who described Sino-Malagasy relations as good, fruitful and lasting, accepted a Chinese invitation to visit Peking for a fourth time. He last visited China in 1978.

But in an allusion to Sino-Soviet tension he added that even though China and Madagascar might not always see eye to eye on certain problems, I will work to consolidate and extend friendship between our two peoples.

Earlier, the two countries signed a cultural agreement covering education, art, literacy, information, science, health and sport.

RATSIRAKA REPORTS 20 NATIONS SUPPORT INDIAN OCEAN SUMMIT

AB021638 Paris AFP in English 1514 GMT 2 Sep 80

[Text] Antananarivo, 2 Sep (AFP)--Twenty nations have expressed support for Madagascar's proposal of a summit conference here to discuss the Indian Ocean as a zone of peace, President Didier Ratsiraka announced today.

According to Mr Ratsiraka, the following countries backed the plan:

In Africa--Algeria, Angola, Cameroon, Congo, Ethiopia, Mozambique, Tanzania and Zambia,

In the Indian Ocean--Comoros, Mauritius and Seychelles,
In Asia--Bangladesh, China, India, North Korea and Vietnam,
In Europe--France, Soviet Union and Yugoslavia,
In the Americas--Cuba.

The president stressed that his proposal aimed at the signing of a treaty that would commit the nations involved.

Mr. Ratsiraka has just returned from a two-week trip to the Soviet Union and France. In Moscow, he met Basily Kuznetsov, first vice-president of the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet, and in Paris he saw President Valery Giscard d'Estaing. He said that France had agreed to the conference proposal because the idea put forward by Madagascar and the progressive countries is well-founded.

In the Soviet Union, bilateral accords were signed concerning the building of a road between Vatomandry, on the east coast, and the central highlands, and construction of a silo and a flour mill at Toamasina. Other agreements called for creation of a cement factory and sale of 50,000 tons of Soviet cement to Madagascar, a study on exploitation of bauxite deposits on the southeast shore and construction of a dam on the Mandrare River in the south.

MOZAMBIQUE

FRELIMO PARTY ISSUES STATEMENT ON DROUGHT

LD292028 Maputo Domestic Service in Portuguese 1330 GMT 29 Aug 80 EA

[Excerpts] Here is an appeal from the permanent political committee of the Frelimo Party Central Committee:

Mozambicans, vast areas of our country are today facing a serious situation because of insufficient rainfall over the past 2 years. In various districts of the provinces of Tete, Manica, Sofala, Inhambane, Gaza and Maputo the drought has destroyed both the land and human lives.

This drought, which has seriously affected six of the country's provinces, is responsible for major shortages in food and water supplies to the people and a shortage of natural grazing for animals, and it is also the reason for considerable losses in agricultural production.

Faced with this situation, people roam the country for miles in search of food and water to assuage their hunger and thirst. In production units and schools the number of absentees continues to increase because people are moving in search of food and water. Over 1.5 million people in 6 of our country's provinces have been hit by drought. The most seriously hit areas are precisely those which normally have very low rainfall. The worst hit areas are:

Maputo Province: the districts of Moamba, Magude and Matutuine--a total of 215,000 people;

Gaza Province: the districts of Chicualacuala, Massingir, Guija, Chibuto, Manjacaze, Limpopo, Bilene and Gaza--a total of 385,000 people;

Inhambane Province: the districts of Govuro, Massinga, Panda, Morrumbene, Villanculos and Homoine--a total of 300,000 people;

Sofala Province: the districts of Chemba, Caia, Marromeu, Chiringoma, Buzi and Chibabava--a total of 290,000 people;

Manica Province: the districts of Guro, Tambara, Barue and Mossurize--a total of 95,000 people;

Tete Province: the districts of Muarara, Changara, Magoe, Cabora Bassa, Moatize, Chiuta and Zumbo--a total of 60,000 people.

The affected areas are mostly those which suffered a series of acts of aggression by the Smith regime and the most dramatic situation is to be found in Inhambane Province.

There has been an average drop in agricultural production of over 50 percent in the above-mentioned areas, which has led to a shortage of foodstuffs and seed for trade and planting. Since there has been no seed to sell, in some areas the people do not have money to buy even basics. The people most affected by hunger, thirst and disease are those living in scattered communities. In village communes where people are concentrated it is possible to organize the opening of wells and boreholes, provide medical services, protect livestock and se' up conditions for the irrigation of farms. It is also possible to stop people burning off vegetation.

If we are to emerge victorious from the fight against drought, we must develop our production capacity and eradicate ignorance. Overcoming drought means, above all, organizing ourselves to forestall its effects by fighting against the burning off of vegetation, constructing dams, dikes, water-sluices and reservoirs to irrigate our farms, setting up warehouses and granaries in which to store our produce, and (?living) in village communes with a permanent supply of water. This constitutes the surest and most definite answer to drought and other natural calamities.

Faced with this emergency situation, we must find immediate ways of minimizing the effects of drought. There is a need for an overall, coordinated program. In this context, led by the Frelimo Party, action for the immediate relief of the affected people is already underway. Teams are being set up to support and distribute food so as to save human lives and livestock. The president of the Frelimo Party and of the People's Republic of Mozambique, Samora Moises Machel, has decided to withdraw 50 million meticals from the Bank of Solidarity to support the victims of this disease.

The permanent political committee of the Frelimo Party appeals to all the people to contribute whatever they can in the way of new or used clothing, shoes, blankets and other material goods which may help minimize the difficulties facing our countrymen. Donations should be channeled through party bodies, which will forward them to priority areas where they are most needed. The struggle continues!

ZAMBIA

SOVIET DELEGATION MEETS WITH JOURNALISTS, PARTY OFFICIAL

News' Agency Cooperation

LD021240 Lusaka Domestic Service in English 1115 GMT 1 Sep 80 CA

[Text] The leader of the four-man Soviet delegation and editor in chief of SOTSIALISTICHESKAYA INDUSTRIYA, Mr Vasiliy Golubev, today called for closer contacts between Zambian and Soviet journalists. The Soviet team leader said the two countries should forge further links in the field of exchanging information and work under the existing agreement between the ZAMBIAN NEWS AGENCY [ZANA] and TASS, the Soviet new agency, as a step in the right direction.

Mr Golubev was speaking when he and his delegation held talks with ZANA acting editor in chief Mr (Willie Lombanya), during which the team also toured the ZANA headquarters premise, accompanied by Youth League executive secretary and member of the Central Committee Mr Bautis Kapulu, Mr Golubev noted that Western news agencies were not objective on certain issues and tended to paint a biased picture of countries that attacked their capitalist policies. He suggested that TASS news be used as an official version on matters related to events in the Soviet Union. In reply ZANA acting editor in chief Mr (Lombanya) assured the Soviet delegation of cooperation in the exchange of information.

Assistance to Liberation Struggle

LD031032 Lusaka Domestic Service in English 1800 GMT 2 Sep 80 CA

[Text] A member of the Central Committee today called upon progressive countries like the Soviet Union to support the South-West Africa People's Organization (SWAPO) of Namibia and the African National Congress of South Africa in their liberation struggle. Mr Elijah Mudenda, who is also chairman of the social and cultural subcommittee of the Central Committee, made the call in his office in Lusaka today when the visiting Soviet delegation called on him. Mr Mudenda thanked the Soviet Union for their assistance during the liberation struggle for Angola, Mozambique and Zimbabwe and urged her to continue supporting the oppressed people of southern Africa until they also attain their independence.

In reply, leader of the delegation Mr Vasiliy Golubev said now that the liberation struggle in southern Africa appears to be in the last phase after Zimbabwe's independence his country will do everything possible to assist independent states and called for cooperation between Zambia and the Soviet Union.

PRESIDENT KAUNDA ON OFFICIAL VISIT TO BULGARIA

For reportage on the visit of President Dr Kenneth Kaunda, see the Bulgaria section of the 3 September Eastern Europe DAILY REPORT and subsequent issues.

ZIMBABWE

PRC ECONOMIC DELEGATION ARRIVES IN SALISBURY

LD021228 Salisbury Domestic Service in English 1600 GMT 1 Sep 80 CA

[Text] An economic delegation from the People's Republic of China arrived in Salisbury this afternoon for talks on economic and technical cooperation with Zimbabwe.

The six-member delegation, which is headed by the deputy minister of economic relations with foreign countries, Comrade Li Ke was met at the airport by the deputy ministers of finance, Dr Munyaradzi, and of local government and housing, Comrade Chidyausiku. Comrade Li told the Zimbabwe Broadcasting Corporation that China will continue the friendly relations which have always existed with the people of Zimbabwe.

The visit is expected to last more than 1 week.